



# CITY OF BELLAIRE PARKS MASTER PLAN

2015 - 2025



# DRAFT

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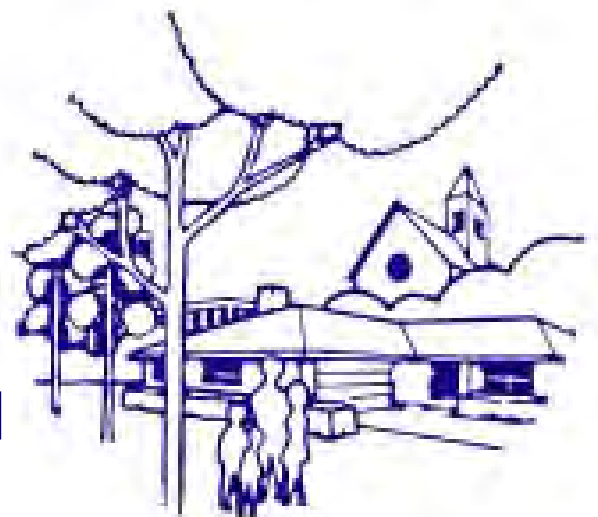
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# CITY OF BELLAIRE

## PARKS MASTER PLAN

2015 - 2025





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Bellaire is a historic community, established in 1908, nestled in the heart of Houston that has managed to maintain a strong sense of individual character and identity amidst the fast pace of the fourth largest city in the United States. In 1949, the City of Houston annexed a 400 foot strip around the existing land of Bellaire, thus land locking the City of Bellaire to approximately 3.1 square miles.

## PURPOSES

This Master Plan has two major purposes: To provide the City and its citizens with a map and direction for future parkland improvements, acquisition and development and to serve as a vehicle to approach other organizations, governmental agencies and the private sector for financial assistance with park development. While the Bellaire Comprehensive Plan Update adopted in 2009, addresses a number of issues related to Bellaire parks, it is not designed to go into the depth and detail as the Parks Master Plan. The last Park Master Plan was for the years 2002 - 2012 and while there have been updates to the Plan and most of the Plan was realized, it became time to do a complete review of the park system and create a new Parks Master Plan for the next ten years (2015 - 2025). Parks and Recreation Staff and the Parks Advisory Board have been tasked by City Council to undertake the preparation of a new Parks Master Plan.

## PLANNING

In 2012, the Bellaire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board began developing a ten year comprehensive Parks Master Plan. The Board chose in conjunction with Parks and Recreation Department staff to develop the plan internally.

## SURVEY

The Plan identifies the current needs of Bellaire citizens as measured through surveys, individual interviews and focus group meetings. To address the future needs of Bellaire citizens the Parks Board looked at a number of trends and forces within and outside of the City which will impact our future. These external factors include changing demographics, continuing redevelopment of residential property and the economic environment within, which the City must operate.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Bellaire has experienced a growth and change in its demographics over the past ten years. The 2010 Census shows a total population of 16,855 residents. In 2009 approximately 20% of residences had been redeveloped at the time the Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted; in 2015 that percentage has surpassed 60%. New homes tend to be larger than the houses they replace leaving residents with smaller yards. Bellaire households, many with children living at home, are thus left with greater lot coverage and smaller yards. This tends to increase the demand for public green spaces, play fields and other City amenities. Bellaire currently falls below the national ratio of residents to acres of parkland as identified by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA, 2012). Further demographic information is available in the Comprehensive Plan.

## PARK REVIEWS

The Master Plan includes a complete review and evaluation of all existing parks and recreation facilities in Bellaire. Based on this analysis the Plan proposes a number of enhancements and improvements to existing parks and park facilities and recommends the addition of a few parks, and playfields to meet the current and future needs of Bellaire citizens. The Plan identifies funding priorities, makes suggestions for possible alternative funding sources and establishes implementation timelines.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *continued*

## FISCAL OUTLOOK

This Park Plan addresses citizen needs, but at the same time recognizes fiscal realities. While the Plan calls for additional expenditures for parks, these additional expenditures are consistent with the City's changing demographics and can be accomplished within the Plan's ten year period and are achievable. The Plan addresses the citizens' requests for additional and enhanced park services, enhanced levels of maintenance, upgrading of existing facilities and equipment and addition of parkland in areas of the City where identified.

Through the implementation of this Plan, the City's park infrastructure will be balanced with park land, recreational facilities and open spaces, sufficient to serve the current and future needs of the citizens of Bellaire. At the same time, the Plan is intended to preserve and enhance the unique and aesthetic natural assets of Bellaire.



# INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellaire Parks Master Plan (Plan) is intended to serve as a guide to the City of Bellaire in making decisions related to parks, recreation and open space. It will assist in the implementation of those decisions and in setting guidelines for future park and open space development. These plans are feasible for Bellaire and consistent with the desires of the citizens.

The following pages contain guiding principles and objectives for the City's park and open space system, the methodology used to develop the Master Plan, an inventory of existing facilities which make up the local park network, an analysis and list of local needs, and an implementation program to meet the Master Plan's objectives.

Thank you to the following persons and groups for their participation in the development of this Plan:

**Citizens of Bellaire**

**Mayor Phil Nauert and City Council Members**

**Bellaire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

**Paul Hofmann, City Manager**

**Karl Miller, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director**

**Cheryl Bright-West, Assistant Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director**

**Jane Dembski, Past Parks and Recreation Director**

**Bellaire Parks, Recreation and Facilities Staff**

**Clark Condon Associates – Design and Graphics**

## PARK PLANNING

This Plan is intended to address the City's current and future needs. Information on current needs was gathered through a citizen survey, interviews and focus group meetings. The Parks and Recreation Staff reviewed current trends within and outside of Bellaire, which will have a significant impact on the City's future. These environmental factors include:

**Current Bellaire Population Trends:** The total population in 1990 was 13,842 and increased in 2000 to 16,855. During the past decade and a half, participation in all City recreation programs and activities increased significantly. This is particularly true with the youth programs. There is an ever increasing number of young people participating in both Bellaire Parks and Recreation sponsored youth programs and City affiliated youth programs such as Bellaire Little League and Express Soccer.

**Residential Redevelopment:** Approximately 60% of the City's homes have been rebuilt to date. The rebuilding process slowed down somewhat during the economic downturn, but has picked back up since that time. As more people discover the convenience of living in a close-in suburb, and the numerous benefits of abandoning their lengthy commutes, the rebuilding trend will stay steady.

**Economy:** The economic climate from year to year will no doubt have some impact upon the City. Redevelopment of homes and new home construction will continue to respond to economic conditions. It is anticipated that the cost for providing City services will continue to rise at or near the rate of inflation. The cost to attract excellent candidates for employment through salary and benefits has increased significantly in order for Bellaire to be competitive. Health care costs have also risen significantly as well as technology.

**Tax Base:** Although Bellaire has enjoyed growth in its tax base over the past several years, such growth may begin to flatten out and stabilize as the number of homes available for redevelopment decreases. A long range plan must therefore consider how City commitments relate to the expected level of future tax revenues.





# INTRODUCTION *continued*

**Lot Coverage:** As the City is rebuilt, relatively small 1940's and 1950's era homes are being replaced with two and two and one-half story homes, many covering a significantly larger percentage of the lot. As back yards have decreased in size, it increases the demand on the City's parks and green spaces and makes it imperative to provide enough park space.

**The Impact of Parkland and Residential Property Values:** Studies have shown that property values adjacent to a park are greater on average relative to similarly situated properties not located near a park. One such study found that properties in a one-block radius of a park were 10% higher in value. The relative additional value decreases to 5% for homes from 1-2 blocks away from the park, and a 0% for homes farther than 2 blocks away (*The Impact of Parks and Open Space on Property Values and the Property Tax Base*, by John L. Crompton, PhD, Winter 2007).

**Existing Parks:** The ratio of existing Bellaire parkland (51 acres) to Bellaire's 2010 Census population (16,855) equates to a 0.302 acres per 100 residents. The traditional national ratio is 1 acre per 100 people. Bellaire falls well below this ratio. As a practical matter, however, Bellaire will never be able to meet this ratio due to its landlocked status, as well as the limited availability and high price of undeveloped property within the City. Ideally, there should be a park within walking distance (1/4 mile) from every Bellaire citizen's home. In order to provide this level of park access, the City would need to add approximately 7 more acres of parkland.

The Parks Master Plan balances the needs of Bellaire citizens with the realities of the City's landlocked status and the probable limits of the City's tax base and other forms of financing. While it calls for certain additions and enhancements, the Plans Guiding Principles and Objectives are certainly feasible within the planned ten year period and within the long term financial constraints the City faces. The Plan addresses the citizens' identified needs for additional and enhanced services, provides for necessary maintenance and replacement of existing facilities and equipment, and calls for the addition of parkland in the identified areas with the most need.



# INTRODUCTION *continued*

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide excellent services, programs, parks and facilities to enhance the health, safety, welfare and sense of community for the residents of Bellaire and visitors.

## VISION

Through spirited service and a can-do attitude, the Bellaire Parks and Recreation and Facilities Department delivers enjoyable recreation and leisure opportunities to improve the health and well-being of the community through diverse recreational programming, park services and quality facilities.

## CORE VALUES

**Professionalism** – Commitment to the extension of Parks & Recreation goals through

- Exceptional Customer Service
- Knowledgeable, well-trained staff
- Accountability
- Teamwork

**Integrity** – Commitment to provide programming, facilities and services that are

- Accessible
- Impartial
- Sincere

**Quality** - Commitment to excellence through

- Trend Setting
- Fun
- Diversity

**Safety** – Commitment to provide programming, facilities and services with environments that are

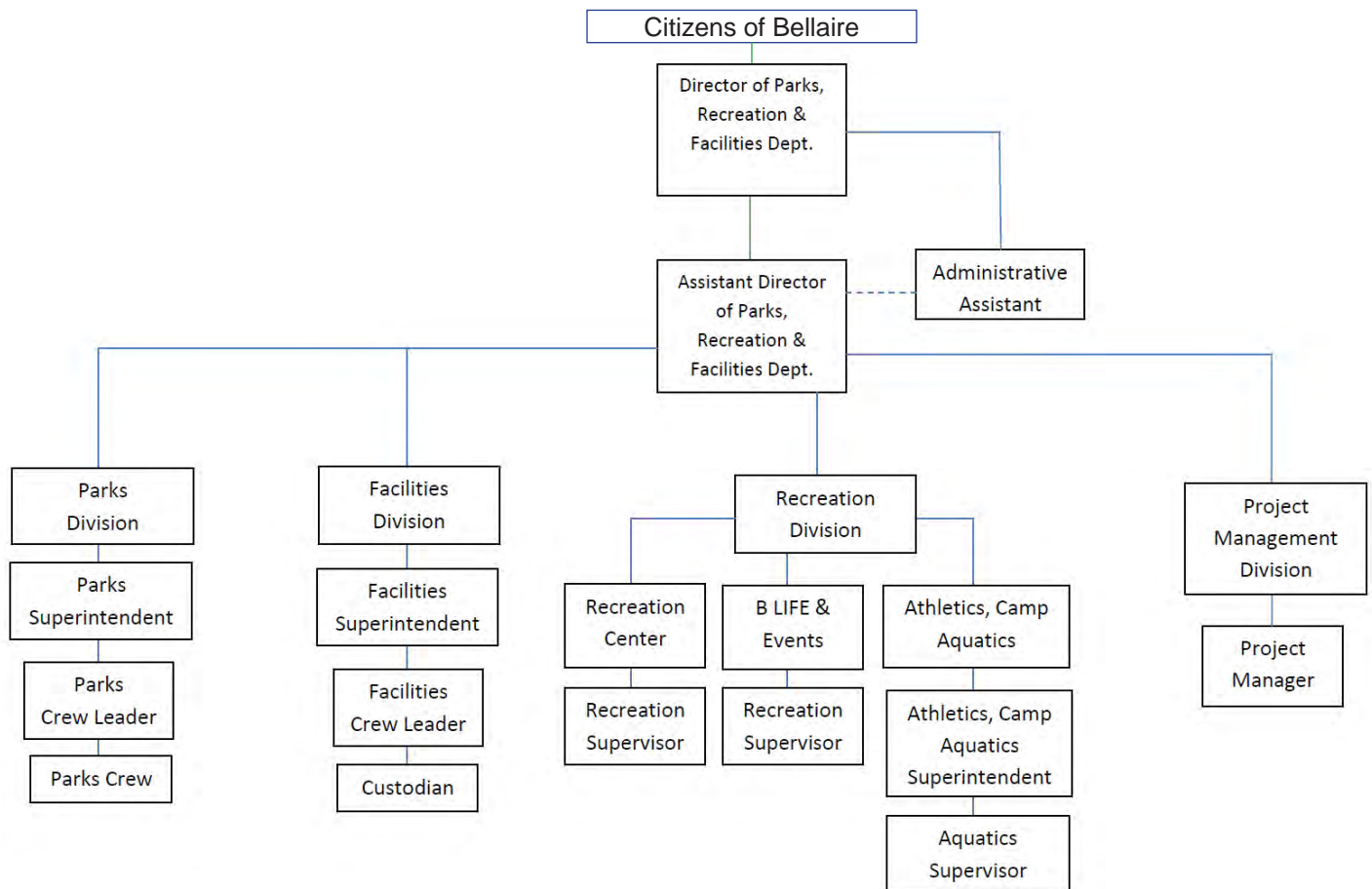
- Safe
- Secure





# INTRODUCTION *continued*

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES





# GUIDING PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES

## PRINCIPLE 1

Provide excellent park facilities and open space areas to meet present and future community needs.

### *Objectives:*

- Utilize alternative sources of land such as school sites, existing street right of ways, utility easements, and joint city/county purchases or leases to reduce land acquisition costs.
- Investigate acquiring additional parkland, including flood-prone property, to meet identified deficiencies and demographic trends as available.

## PRINCIPLE 2

Provide excellent recreational programs and services to meet present and future community needs.

### *Objectives:*

- Look for innovative ways to engage the community in indoor and outdoor activities, fitness, and recreation through programming and/or the creation of unique recreation facilities.
- Establish procedures for regular evaluation of services and programs by users that encourage open communication and feedback from citizens.
- Periodically review recreational and demographic trends to assess needs.
- Maintain and expand the website and social media opportunities.
- Periodically review and update the Master Plan.

## PRINCIPLE 3

Establish a network of pedestrian walkways, trails and bikeways throughout the City.

### *Objectives:*

- Develop a trails and bikeway master plan.
- Connect major destinations.
- Design for recreational and purposeful trips.
- Utilize existing public and semi-public right of ways and utility easements.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with public and private organizations.

## PRINCIPLE 4

Enhance the City's image and the quality of life in Bellaire.

### *Objectives:*

- Continue landscaping and other beautification measures along key thoroughfares, right of ways, and other corridors.
- Continue sponsoring special events that promote a positive image of Bellaire.
- Encourage environmentally sensitive actions, such as recycling, and be proactive in the protection of nature areas.
- Promote a culturally rich environment by establishing and providing facilities for community arts and theater programs.
- Maintain the unique environments.
- Promote preservation of properties with historically significant sites.

## PRINCIPLE 5

Maximize public/private partnerships to assist in all aspects of park and recreation planning and development.

### *Objectives:*

- Continue seeking partnerships with local schools and businesses for use of property for park development.
- Seek alternative funding such as grants, foundations and private donations.
- Explore parkland dedication and/or funding by residential/commercial developers to accommodate increased demand on existing facilities.
- Continue to work collaboratively with Patrons for Bellaire Parks, the Nature Discovery Center, Evelyn's Park Conservancy, youth and community organizations.



# METHODOLOGY

## TIMELINE OF MASTER PARK PLAN PROCESS

- The Parks Advisory Board and staff are tasked each year to update the Parks Master Plan. The latest Parks Master Plan was for the period 2002 – 2012, with updates during that time and through 2014. That plan and previous plans have been a great guiding tool for the Parks and Recreation Department and for City Council for future planning and budgeting purposes. The Parks Board began the process in late 2012, to create a new plan for the next ten year period, 2015-2025.
- In Winter 2012, Parks & Recreation staff had several meetings to discuss needs and goals and to create a citizen survey.
- In Spring 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department ran the public survey on-line, in the Leisure Activities Guide and in person. This survey was used to validate and/or show new needs and desires of the residents. See the following Survey “Results at a Glance” - see complete survey results in Section 13: Appendix B.
- During 2013 and 2014, City Staff and Parks Board inventoried and evaluated existing facilities, parks, open spaces and recreational resources. The National Parks and Recreation Association’s National Standards and other City’s Master Plans were used as guidelines for planning.
- In June 2013, Parks Board and City Staff conducted a citizen forum with key leaders from various organizations and interested citizens. This forum provided valuable input for the future plans of the Parks and Recreation activities and facilities. See Appendix XI: C, for the Focus Group results.
- Winter of 2015, the Bellaire Park Board completed their review of the Master Plan.
- Spring of 2015, a public hearing was held and the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the Parks Master Plan as part of the City of Bellaire’s Comprehensive Plan.
- Spring of 2015, City Council accepted the Parks Master Plan.

## BELLAIRE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

In spring of 2012, the survey was conducted by Bellaire Parks & Recreation and the Bellaire Parks Advisory Board. The intent of the survey was to understand the parks and recreational needs of the community including the facilities, parks and programs. The survey was available on-line, in the spring issue of the Leisure Activities guide in the City’s water bill and at the Recreation Center. There were 333 surveys returned, but 301 that were usable for the data. The following are the results of four of the main questions asked. Full results, see: Section 13: Appendix B.



# METHODOLOGY

## SURVEY RESULTS AT-A- GLANCE

### Top 10 Facility/Park needs of the City:

1. Fitness Trail
2. Trail miles/multi-use
3. Gardens (floral or produce)
4. Covered Pavilions
5. Playgrounds, equipment
6. Baseball fields
7. Nature Study area
8. Natural water features/structures
9. Meditation areas
10. Open Fields

### Top 10 Facilities and Parks Used Most Often:

1. Bellaire Recreation Center
2. Bellaire Town Square Family Aquatic Center
3. Evergreen Park
4. Nature Discovery Center
5. Evergreen Pool
6. Newcastle Trail
7. Russ Pitman Park
8. Jessamine Field
9. Bellaire-Zindler Park
10. Feld Park

### Possible Future Project in Priority Order:

1. Provide more trails
2. Spend more time/money developing and maintaining existing facilities
3. Spend more time/money beautifying the City
4. Develop more neighborhood parks
5. Acquire additional parkland for the City
6. Develop larger park facilities
7. Develop larger sports complexes for baseball, softball and soccer
8. Provide more lighted ball fields

### Top Main Reasons for Visiting the Recreation Center:

1. Register for program or membership
2. Fitness Room
3. Children's Class/program
4. Attend an event
5. Adult class/program
6. Get specific questions answered
7. Attend a meeting
8. Jazzercise
9. Attend birthday party
10. Open gym



# PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City's park classification system may be broken down into five (5) major categories. The park categories are as follows:

### MINI PARK

A mini park is a small park, usually less than 2 acres, developed with passive or active features such as sidewalks, fountains, gazebos, benches and landscaping.

It serves the area within a 0.25 mile radius with primarily active recreational features. Facilities commonly found are playgrounds which may include swings, slides, climbing apparatus, spray pads, open turf areas and benches. Bellaire Parks: Joe Gaither, Locust, Ware Family and Vic Driscoll.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

A neighborhood park is a site of approximately 2 to 5 acres. It serves the area within a 0.5 mile radius with both active and passive recreational opportunities. Facilities that may be found in neighborhood parks include play apparatus, picnic areas, shelters, playing courts, open play, restrooms and historical attractions. Bellaire Parks: Feld, Lafayette and Mulberry.

### COMMUNITY PARK

A community park is a site of approximately greater than 5 acres with a service area of 2 miles. Facilities that may be included in such a park are tennis courts, separate or multi-purpose sports fields, play apparatus, picnic areas, walking/jogging trails, swimming pools, open space, special event area and restrooms. Bellaire Parks: Bellaire-Zindler, Loftin, Evelyn's, Evergreen and Russ Pitman.

### SCHOOL PARK / FIELD

Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use. Bellaire Schools: Condit, Pin Oak, Horn and Mandarin.

### TRAILS / PATHWAYS

Interconnection: Sidewalk, Trails, Bike Lanes

A **sidewalk** is a narrow pathway off of the road primarily used for walking. It is made of concrete (or other similar material) and is typically 4 feet wide.

A **trail** is a shared use pathway that is usually wider than a sidewalk that is appropriate for walkers, joggers, and in certain cases, bikes travelling at slower speeds. It is a minimum of six feet wide, with a preference for eight to ten feet if used as a two way directional path. It can be made of concrete, decomposed granite, or other similar materials. Examples include the Holly Street Trail and the Newcastle Trail.

A **nature trail** is usually found in an environmentally sensitive area often surrounded by fields, meadows, wetlands, ponds, or wooded areas. These type of trails have minimal improvements but should include areas that are accessible to all and meet ADA standards. These trails are usually passive in nature and often used for educational purposes. Example: Russ Pittman Park



# PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS *continued*

A **bike route** is a designated street on which bicyclists are recommended to ride, sharing the road with motorized traffic for intra-neighborhood travel. Preferred streets with bike routes would be streets with a lower traffic count (or slower traffic) than other options. Suggested streets for main bike routes for east/west uses are Fournace and Evergreen versus Bellaire Boulevard and Bissonnet as they are higher traffic streets and for north south uses, S. Rice Avenue versus 610 Highway. The bike route should be marked with bike route signs and pavement markings, and if possible, protected from car traffic by road humps or posts. It is recommended that there not be on street parking in the bike route, if possible. Bike routes may also provide one direction traffic flow or two way directional traffic flows.



# PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS *continued*

## STANDARDS FOR PARK AMENITIES

**Purpose:** To standardize the various park site amenities to maintain the architectural aesthetics integrity of the parks.



Site amenities include, but not limited to:

1. Fencing
2. Benches
3. Picnic Tables
4. Trash Receptacles
5. Park Identification Signs
6. Restroom Facilities
7. Lighting
8. Playground Fall Surface
9. Shade Covers

**1. Fencing:** Type of fencing will be dictated by use of park. Fencing will be replaced with new standardized fencing when the current fence needs to be replaced.

Tube Steel/Aluminum fencing will be used around all pools and playground areas that are adjacent to parking lots and/or busy streets.

### **Tube Steel/Aluminum Standards:**

Pools: Shall be minimum six feet high around perimeter of total pool area, be able to withstand harsh pool environment, heavy duty, prefer a coating that will not chip, black in color.

Current Fencing: Bellaire Family Aquatics Center, Evergreen Pool & Elaine Wood Therapy Pools have aluminum fencing around total perimeter. The Therapy Pool has a four foot interior fence on the north side of the pool, along with an interior entrance gate and a maintenance gate.

Playgrounds: Shall be minimum four feet high, heavy duty, prefer coating that will not chip, and entrance gates or extra fencing adjacent to the entrance to slow down anyone coming or going to the park.

Parks Include: Bellaire Town Square, Loftin, Evergreen, Evelyn's, Feld, Ware Family, Lafayette and Russ Pitman

### **Vinyl Coated Chain Link Standards:**

Chain link fencing shall be used for parks with athletic fields or areas that need better security fencing. A minimum of six feet high, galvanized with minimum two inch diameter posts, entrance gate with latch and a maintenance gate where needed.

Parks & Schools that have chain link fencing include: Bellaire, Feld, Lafayette, Mulberry, Russ Pitman Parks; HISD schools maintain their fencing at these locations: Condit Elementary School, Horn Academy, Mandarin Chinese School, and Pin Oak Middle School.







# PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS *continued*

## Wood:

Wood fencing shall be used when the park is adjacent to a residential lot and it is agreed upon between the City and the resident neighbors. Opaque stain will be used to enhance the lifetime and look of the fence.

**2. Benches:** Type of benches will be dictated by type of park and suited for heavy public use. Benches will be replaced with new standardized benches when needed.

- Decorative/functional benches will be used in highly visible parks. If a bench is placed along a sidewalk or concrete path, the bench must inhibit use as a skate element.
- For smaller parks, vinyl coated benches may be considered.
- Colors, materials, and options will be site specific.



Art Benches will be included in parks that are approved by City Council. Specific placement will be approved by Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department.

**3. Picnic Tables:** Type of tables will be dictated by type of park, use, and location within park. Tables will be replaced as needed with new standardized tables.

- The preferred table is metal, family style. Alternative style will have galvanized bases and support structures.
- The intent is to match all amenities with similar architectural styles.
- The top materials, colors and options will be site specific.



**4. Trash Receptacles:** Type of receptacles will be dictated by type of park, visibility, and functionality. Trash receptacles will be replaced as needed with new standardized trash receptacles.

- The preferred material is metal in patterns to match other site amenities.
- The intent is to match all amenities with similar architectural styles.
- Side access for easy service and maintenance cleaning.



**5. Park Identification Signs:** Signage for parks will identify the park name and the City of Bellaire. The intent of the identification is for the park patron to know what park they are in and where. Signs will adhere to the overall city signage programs and standards. Additional street signage will be used for directional purposes. The materials used for both types of signage will be based on form, function and will blend with the architectural styling of the park and city. Identification signs will be replaced as needed with new standardized signs.

**6. Restroom Facilities:** Permanent restrooms shall be in the following parks: Bellaire Town Square, Evergreen, Evelyn's, Feld, Horn Field, Lafayette, Mulberry and Russ Pitman.

# PARK CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS *continued*

## 7. Lighting:

- Athletic Lighting: Sports field lighting with either concrete or steel poles and computerized controls
- Park Lighting Standard: Decorative lighting for ambiance and safety of users – turns off at a set time. Metal posts with a decorative light fixture are desired at all parks and shall compliment with other site amenities of each individual park.
- Security Lighting: Lighting that is on from dusk to dawn to allow areas to be visible from the street for security, especially for police officers to view inside the park. Specific plans will be approved by the Bellaire Police Department.

**8. Playground Fall Surface:** All playgrounds shall meet the standards from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines. Current fall surface is engineered wood fiber, which is fire resistant and doesn't splinter. Alternative surfacing would be poured in place rubberized material or artificial turf.



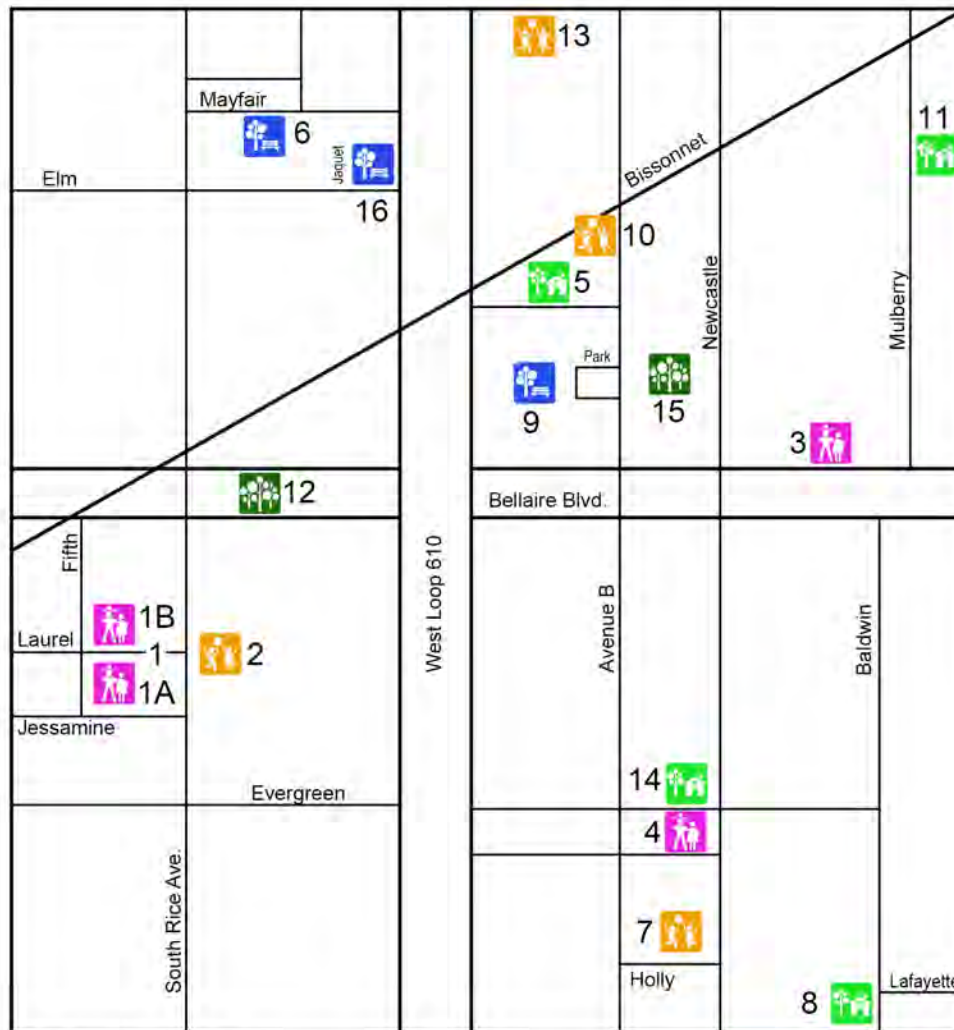
**9. Shade Covers:** Shade for the park and facility users has become a high priority when choosing where to visit and participate. Every effort will be made to include shade structures at the parks and pools. The structures shall coordinate and/or compliment with the site amenities.





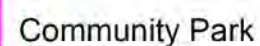
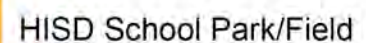
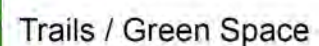


# City of Bellaire- Park Key



\* This map is not to scale.

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bellaire Town Square | 8. Lafayette Park                |
| 1.A Zindler Park        | 9. Locust Park                   |
| 1.B Loftin Park         | 10. Mandarin Chinese School Park |
| 2. Condit School Field  | 11. Mulberry Park                |
| 3. Evelyn's Park        | 12.Paseo Park                    |
| 4. Evergreen Park       | 13. Pin Oak Field                |
| 5. Feld Park            | 14. Russ Pitman Park             |
| 6. Joe Gaither Park     | 15. Vic Driscoll Park            |
| 7. Horn School Field    | 16. Ware Family Park             |





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

## BELLAIRE TOWN SQUARE: BELLAIRE ZINDLER PARK



Bellaire Zindler Park encompasses a city block anchored by a campus of City buildings: City Hall/Civic Center, Recreation Center, Bellaire Family Aquatics Center and Police Department and Loftin Park. A park area connecting the facilities features two tennis courts, a Little League baseball field, and a handball/racquetball court. Nestled close to mature oaks and numerous plantings is the Multipurpose Great Lawn with a gazebo, donor wall plaza, entertainment pavilion, lighted 6-8 foot sidewalk system, benches, and picnic tables.

The Recreation Center is the hub of the park activities, housing programs such as youth and adult basketball leagues, Camp Paseo summer camp, specialty camps, aerobic/fitness classes, music and dance classes and many more. The Recreation Center features staff offices, a gymnasium, four multi-purpose rooms, a fitness room, a stage, a kitchen and locker rooms.

The City Hall / Civic Center includes an auditorium and meeting rooms used for a variety of activities including: City Administrative offices, city meetings, exercise classes, special events like the popular Daddy-Daughter Dance and BLIFE special luncheons and programs; and rentals.

The heart of summer activities is Bellaire Family Aquatics Center, which opened in 2008. Pools are used by residents and non-residents alike, summer campers, day care centers, churches, party rentals as well as City programs: Swim team, water exercise classes, scuba classes and swim lessons.





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

Bellaire Town Square is well-known in the community as the Flagship Park that is the host site for various special events, such as: 4th of July Festival, Bellaire Trolley Run, Holiday-in-the-Park and Tents in Town.

## Park Recreation Inventory:

- Bellaire Recreation Center
- Bellaire Family Aquatic Center
- Civic Center: Auditorium, meeting room and Senior Services area for BLIFE
- Gazebo with Donor Plaza Area
- Multi-purpose Great Lawn with entertainment pavilion
- Little League Field – lighted with concession stand and batting cage
- 6 – 8 foot sidewalk system
- Benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles
- Decorative lighting

## Needs Assessment:

- Implement Municipal Facilities Plan which includes park improvements
- Upgrade ball field poles and lights
- Upgrade tennis court poles and lights
- Add tall netting system to right field at Jessamine Field
- South deck improvements to Bellaire Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) - concrete
- North deck improvements to BFAC – wood deck
- Replace water play features
- Add cabanas and more shade structures to BFAC
- Park sign





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## BELLAIRE TOWN SQUARE: LOFTIN PARK



Loftin Park consists of twelve previously owned residential lots abutting the old Laurel Street right-of-way on the north side of the Aquatics Center, between Fifth Street and South Rice Avenue. The park begins at the point of the intersection of the north parking lot at the Recreation Center and Fifth Street on the west and ends at the point of intersection of the north parking lot at City Hall and South Rice Avenue on the east, and includes approximately a 10-foot strip that is contiguous to the south boundary line of the residential lots. There is a 25-foot ROW running south to north between two residential homes on Linden Street from Loftin Park, 300 feet from Fifth Street.

### Park Inventory:

- Playground equipment – separate area for under 7 and separate area for 7 and up
- Fitness equipment – integrated within the playground equipment – 5 pieces
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- BBQ pits
- Memorial trees
- 6 foot winding sidewalk
- Decorative lighting
- Park dedication plaque

### Needs Assessment:

- Irrigation
- Shade structure over playground equipment
- Perimeter fencing on west side of park near playground
- Entry arch to playground
- Park signage



# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## EVELYN'S PARK



Evelyn's Park is the City's newest park. The park is located on the east side of the City of Bellaire, on the north side of Bellaire Boulevard, between Newcastle and Mulberry Streets. There is approximately 5 acres with a variety of trees dispersed around the park: live oaks, pecan, palms and maples had been planted by the past owners, Teas Nursery. The park will be developed in two phases.

### Park Inventory:

Original Teas Family resident house, later used for office space for the nursery – and future use as a snack shack  
Long brick/wood office building to be demolished before construction  
Open air shed

### Needs Assessment:

Implementation of the Master Site Plan

Phase 1: 2015 - 2016

- Front entry plaza
- A community great lawn
- Café
- Special events building with an events garden and covered pavilion
- Two parking lots
- Children's play garden and structures
- A meditation garden
- Promenade
- A reforestation buffer zone
- Public restrooms
- Maintenance yard and right of way improvements
- Administration offices
- A community building

Phase 2: Start date to be determined later

- An open "travillion" structure
- A stream garden
- A lake
- Butterfly garden
- Lakeside pavilion







# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## EVERGREEN PARK



Evergreen Park has been a favorite park to both residents and non-residents alike. It has an environment of a safe, fun, playful park for children of all ages and adults. As a result of older homes in the Southdale area in Bellaire being replaced with newer and bigger homes occupied by families with children and with the consistent attention to the upkeep of the park amenities, the “park around the corner” is in constant use on a daily basis by park visitors. The swimming pool attracts all ages due to the well-established programming and the close proximity to the residents. All age groups convene at the park as a focal point and meeting ground. It would be hard to identify a comparable small facility that serves the local community as does Evergreen Park.



### Park Inventory:

- Playground equipment
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- BBQ pits
- Memorial trees
- Pool
- Therapy pool
- Open space

### Needs Assessment:

- Site Master Plan
- Improvements may need to be completed in phases depending on future funding. Improvements may include a re-constructed or new swimming pool, playground equipment, picnic pavilion, walk way system and site amenities.





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## FELD PARK



Feld Park located adjacent to Mandarin Chinese Elementary School, Feld Park contains a variety of facilities serving residents of all ages. The parking area is shared by the elementary school and those utilizing the park.

The lighted ball field serves as a soccer field for the fall and spring youth soccer leagues sponsored by the City and Express Soccer and a softball field for the adult softball leagues sponsored by the Bellaire Optimist Club. The playground area has equipment for all ages, benches and shaded by many trees. Also available are two lighted tennis courts that lie at the back of the park behind the ball field. The courts were reconstructed in 1997.

### Park Inventory:

- Shaded playground
- Playground equipment: combination swing, slide and climber set
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Lighted ball field for both adult softball and youth soccer
- Drinking fountain
- Restroom/storage
- Two lighted tennis courts
- Parking area for 70 spaces
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Parking lot resurfacing
- Continuation of the perimeter fencing
- Replace tennis court fence
- Replace tennis court lights
- Field and irrigation rehabilitation
- Replace ball field fencing on the north, east and west sides
- Sidewalk system replacement
- Park lighting
- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Replace playground equipment
- Shade tolerant grass or ground covering
- Park irrigation
- Park master plan





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## JOE GAITHER PARK



Joe Gaither Park is a corner lot located on the north side of the City, at the SW corner of Mayfair and Anderson streets, west of the 610 Loop. This park consists of a swing set and playground equipment for children 5-12 years of age situated at the back half of the site. The front half of the site is open space, ideal for playing games. A split rail fence borders the part on the north and east sides. The park has a variety of trees, including pines, magnolia, elms and crepe myrtles.

### Field Inventory:

- Multi-use play structure
- Swing Set
- Two Benches
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Replace playground equipment and fall surface
- Replace fence with new standard fence
- Shade structure over playground equipment
- Replace sign with standard park sign





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## HOUSTON HILLS PARK



Houston Hills Park consists of 75 acres of undeveloped parkland located on Ruffino Road in Houston, Texas. The parkland was previously used as a landfill and as a golf course but since 1988 has been allowed to transform back to a natural state. An analysis and evaluation of possible appropriate usages of the land should be completed to determine future of land usage.





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## HORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD



Horn Field Elementary School complex sits between the 4500 blocks of Pine and Holly Streets and is bordered on the west side by Avenue B. The fields are located north of the school and consist of two youth baseball fields, one T-ball field with open space between them, 2 batting cages and a concession/restroom facility. Electricity is provided by the City of Bellaire. The Bellaire Little League Organization maintains the fields as part of the agreement with the city.

### Park Inventory:

- Two lighted youth baseball fields with fence, covered dugouts, water fountain and bleachers
- One lighted t-ball field with dugouts
- Restroom/concession facility
- Two batting cages
- Covered hardtop
- Children's playground equipment
- Benches
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Field signage
- No other improvements recommended at this time







# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## LAFAYETTE PARK



Lafayette Park is located in the extreme southeastern corner of the City, this park consists of play area and a long, narrow open space, separated by a 7' high brick wall. The open space area in question is the section of the park that runs from Baldwin to the railroad track. It currently has one swing set installed at the west end near Baldwin and one small soccer field. It is bordered by the Public Works driveway on the south and fence on the residential border on the north. The park is bounded by Edith Street on the south, Lafayette Street on the north, Baldwin Avenue on the west and residences along the northeast side of the site. Play opportunities exist for all ages with a variety of brightly colored equipment. An arbor serves to shade benches and picnic tables adjacent to the play equipment. The park has a variety of trees which include pines, water oaks, red oaks and elms. On-site parking for 15 cars is shared with the Public Works Department, located adjacent to the park.



### Park Inventory:

- Two Play Structures
- Two sets of swings: Toddler (2) and regular (2)
- Youth soccer fields – ages 5-7
- Officer Lucy Dog Park
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- Temporary restroom (seasonal)

### Needs Assessment:

- Replace playground equipment
- Replace fence, and extend fencing to approved areas, with new standard fence
- Re-grade youth soccer field and improve irrigation
- Improve drainage at Officer Lucy Dog Park
- Add site amenities to park
- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Restrooms
- Dog park amenities
- Sign
- Improved landscaping



# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## LOCUST PARK



Locust Park is a small linear shaded park at the end of two streets adjoining the back of a multistory office building located on the access road to Highway 610. Locust Street and Park Street dead end at Locust Park. This is considered a pocket park, providing the community with quiet green space. It is lined on both sides with pecan trees, creating a shaded tree archway.

### Park Inventory:

- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Landscape improvements at the end of the cul-de-sac of Locust Street
- Replace park sign with standard park sign







# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## MULBERRY PARK



Mulberry Park is carved out of a quiet neighborhood on the eastern boundary of Bellaire. Mulberry Park serves residents with picnicking, tennis, youth baseball/softball, and play opportunities for younger children. A driveway segregates the picnic area from the rest of the site, with parking provided on an NRG easement at the back of the park. Approximately one half of the site is shaded with elm, pine and live oaks, while the remainder is utilized for tennis and sports fields.

### Park Inventory:

- Play area – includes swing set
- Tennis courts – 3 lighted
- Sports Field – lighted and irrigated for youth baseball and girls softball
- Parking area with 57 spaces
- Portable restroom facility
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Expanded parking
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Upgrade tennis court lights
- Replace tennis fence
- Replace playground equipment
- Shade cover over playground equipment
- Upgrade ball field poles and system
- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Restroom





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## PASEO PARK



Paseo Park consists of a wide, beautifully landscaped boulevard median, lined with mature live oak trees with various improvements, including: pedestrian lighting, an attractive system of winding, 10-foot sidewalks, and a historical trolley exhibit. Second and Third Streets divide the park into three sections, with the two areas between Second and First Streets having extensive landscaping for a more naturalized appearance. Bellaire's first Official Texas Historical Marker, installed and dedicated in 1989, is located in Paseo Park on Second Street. An additional historical marker was dedicated in 1993, and is located near the trolley car.

### Park Inventory:

- Historical trolley donated by the Bellaire Historical Society
- Bellaire Veteran Memorials with surrounding engraved bricks
- Memorial trees, plantings and plaques
- Lighted sidewalk from South Rice Avenue to First Street
- Two Official Texas Historical Markers
- Bellaire historical trail marker
- Irrigation
- Benches
- Town center clock donated by Rotary Club of Bellaire/Southwest Houston
- Two time capsules
- "Medsu" art bench
- Art piece
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Implement Parks Master Plan
- Sidewalk refurbishment
- Water fountain
- Dog waste receptacles and dog water fountain
- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Landscape improvements







# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

- Remove non-native trees and plants



## PIN OAK FIELD

Pin Oak Field: The Pin Oak Middle School complex sits on eighteen acres at the corner of 610 Loop and Glenmont Street, which is the northern-most area of Bellaire. The school itself is located on the east side of the property, with the athletic fields located on seven acres on the west side. The City of Bellaire has a license agreement with HISD to use the seven acres of field space.

### Field Inventory:

- Two full-sized Little League baseball fields with backstops, dugouts, two batting cages, lights and fencing.
- One lighted, full-sized soccer/football field including goals.
- Three hard top tennis courts with six basketball goals on the courts
- A granite/gravel trail completely surrounds the playing fields and tennis courts.

### Needs Assessment:

- Field signage
- Additional future improvements will be made in collaboration with HISD



# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## RUSS PITMAN PARK

Russ Pitman Park is well-lighted and has many large old pecan and oak trees, fruit trees and native plants. There is an open area for recreational sports, a children's play area, as well as picnic sites. There are two parking areas on the property, one on the south end with 20 spaces and the other on the north with 19 parking spaces. The Park is used by children and families for picnics and birthday parties. Schools and churches in the area have planned gatherings. The Nature Discovery Center holds classes for adults and children, bird walks and nature studies. Several special events are held each year by the Friends of the Nature Discovery Center.

### Park Inventory:

- Henshaw House - Nature Discovery Center
- Three pavilions
- Kiosk
- Aviary
- Herb garden
- Bog
- Wildflower garden
- Nature Trail
- East Texas Woodland area
- Prairie Wetland area
- Pocket Prairie area
- Thrush Hollow area
- Russ Pitman bas relief monument
- Storage shed
- Fountain and fish pond
- Playground equipment
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Implement Gateway Project Plan: Replace driveway and other hardscapes, enhance parking areas, replace work shed and storage building, add outdoor restroom and hand washing station, improve trails and unsafe surfaces, update live animal and outdoor educational space and landscaping.
- Replace old fencing with standard fencing
- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Complete a Master Site Plan





# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## VIC DRISCOLL PARK



Vic Driscoll Park is a linear green space that has two drainage ditches on the North and South sides respectively. The Park is bordered by Avenue B on the west, residences on the north and south sides and a townhome complex on the east side.

### Park Inventory:

- Park sign
- Park dedication plaque
- Sidewalk
- Benches
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Replace park sign with standard sign on west side and add a sign to the east side
- Replace wood fence poles with standard fence
- Create landscaped entrance area on the east side
- Pathway low lighting



# PARK DESCRIPTIONS, INVENTORY & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS *continued*

## WARE FAMILY PARK



Ware Family Park is a long, narrow site punctuated by mature water oaks and ash trees. A high bamboo hedge provides a visual barrier from the freeway, while several pieces of play equipment provide opportunities for children of all ages. The picnic tables are utilized by local employees for lunch retreats. The play equipment is located primarily on the southern half of the site, while the northern half allows for open play activities such as Frisbee, etc.

### Park Inventory:

- Playground equipment
- Two sets of swings - 4 Toddlers and 4 regular
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- 4-foot black decorative metal fence
- Sidewalk outside fence
- Irrigation system
- Trash receptacles

### Needs Assessment:

- Replace park sign with standard park sign
- Replace playground equipment
- Shade cover for playground equipment
- Small picnic pavilion
- Replace site amenities with standard amenities
- Extend perimeter fencing





# CITY OF BELLAIRE PARKS AMENITIES / INVENTORY

	Acres	Auditorium/Meeting Rm	Basketball Court	BBQ Pit	Officers Lucy Dog Park	Fitness Room	Gazebo	Gymnasium	Improved Surface Trail	Natural Surface Trail	Adult Softball Field	Little League Baseball Field	Soccer/Football Field	Tennis Court	Youth Soccer Field	Youth Softball Field	Nature Trail	Neighborhood Pool	Open Green Space	Pavilion	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables/Areas	Playground Area	Senior Activity Center
<b>Bellaire Town Square</b> 7008 S. Rice	7.5	X		X		X	X	X	X			X		X				X	X			X	X	
<b>Bellaire-Zindler Park</b>				X			X					X		X					X	X				
<b>Loftin Park</b>				X					X										X			X	X	
<b>Bellaire Rec. Center</b>		X	X			X		X																
<b>Bellaire Civic Center</b>		X																						X
<b>Family Aquatics Center</b>		X																X						
<b>Evelyn's Park</b> 4400 A Bellaire Blvd	4.9								To be developed 2015-2016															
<b>Evergreen Park</b> 4500 Evergreen	2.1			X														X	X			X	X	
<b>Feld Park</b> 6406 Avenue B	4.7										X			X	X				X			X	X	
<b>Joe Gaither Park</b> 4901 Anderson	0.2																		X				X	
<b>Horn Field</b> 4535 Pine	3.1											X												
<b>Lafayette Park</b> 4337 Lafayette	1.5				X										X				X		X	X	X	
<b>Locust Park</b> 4600 Locust	0.7																		X			X		
<b>Mulberry Park</b> 700 Mulberry	2.5													X		X			X		X	X	X	
<b>Paseo Park</b> 4800-5000 Bellaire Blvd	6.6								X										X					
<b>Ware Family Park</b> 6200 Jacquet	0.5																		X			X	X	
<b>Russ Pitman Park</b> 7112 Newcastle	4.1			X					X								X		X		X	X	X	
<b>Vic Driscoll Park</b> 4500 Locust St.	0.9								X										X					
<b>Pin Oak Field</b> 5801 West Loop South	7		X							X		X	X						X					
<b>Houston Hills Park</b> 9720 Ruffino Rd.	75								Undeveloped															

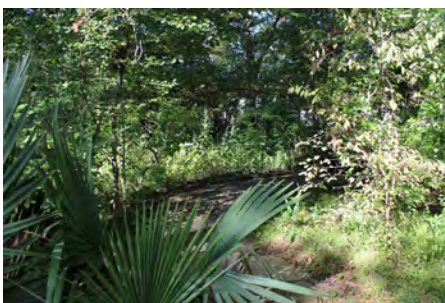
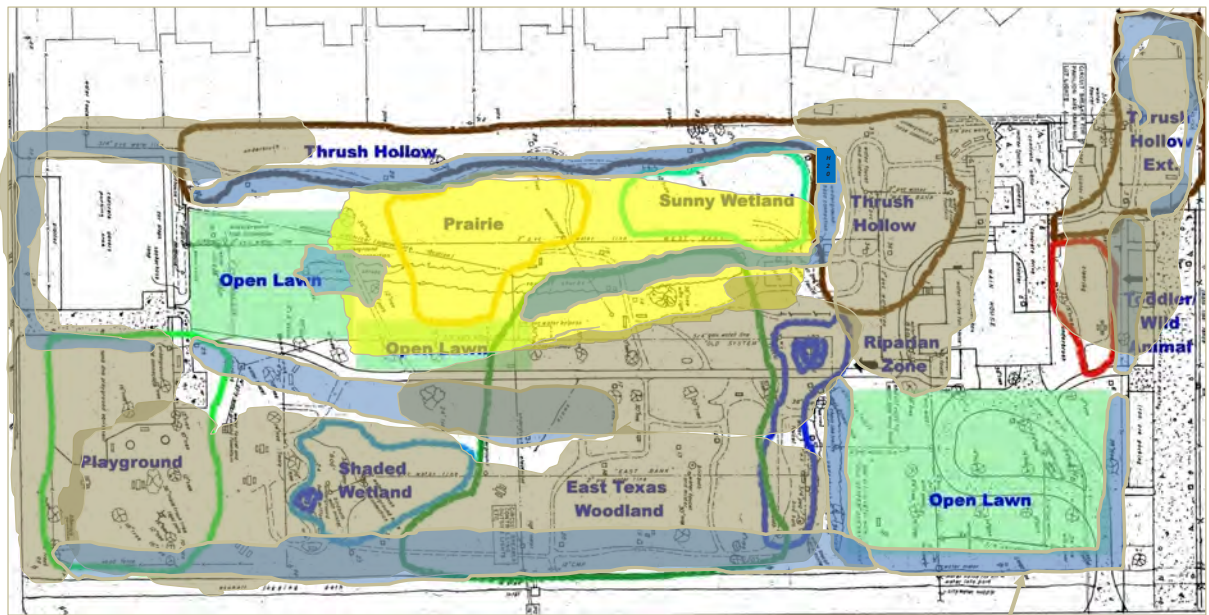


# PATHWAYS

## EXISTING PATHWAYS

The City of Bellaire has a sampling of recreational and transportation pathways, but no planned system to connect them. Most popular are Newcastle Trail, a concrete, shared-use trail popular with dog walkers, cyclists, stroller-pushers and roller skaters. Holly Street Trail has a crushed granite gravel trail on the esplanade both on the south and north sides and highly used by walkers and joggers. Vic Driscoll Park has a sidewalk through the middle of this linear park that serves as a connector between Newcastle Trail and Avenue B.

A unique walking trail is the City's Centennial History Walk Tour, found in Russ Pittman Park, leads walkers through areas of Bellaire that are of historical interest. The walking tour was designed to enrich the community through recognition of how the city has grown over the last 100 years. There are ten Bellaire Centennial Historical Markers and four Texas Historical Markers on the tour. (See Section 12: Maps and Illustrations)



Russ Pitman Park has nature trails that meander through different types of plant and nature areas of the park: East Texas Woodland, Prairie Wetland, Pocket Prairie, and Thrush Hollow. Other unique areas are planned for the future. Paseo Park and Bellaire Town Square have concrete sidewalks that are highly used for exercise and play as well as mobility. Area schools have jogging tracks available to residents during after school hours. Bellaire High School has a crushed granite gravel track on the perimeter of its athletic fields. Condit Elementary School has plans for a jogging trail on the perimeter of their fields, when the new school is built.



There are many residents that bicycle and need good, safe routes to travel throughout the city. There are clearly marked bike lanes along Chimney Rock Drive, but the lanes stop before reaching any major intersections such as Evergreen or Beechnut. On the far western edge of the City, Houston's Renwick Street has marked bike lanes. There are no other bikeways in Bellaire, although cyclists do use the wide eastern shoulder along South Rice Avenue, which is the proposed north south main bike route. (This shoulder cannot be made into a two-way bike lane, however, because



## PATHWAYS *continued*

cyclists are required to move in the direction of vehicular traffic. So, unless parking is prohibited along South Rice's western shoulder, the street's shoulders cannot be converted into official bike lanes. In addition, there are narrow shoulders along both sides of Evergreen east of South Rice, but they disappear before the intersection of Loop 610. The proposed east west main bike route is Fournace and Evergreen Streets. Plans are to work with Bike Houston to connect Bellaire with the Houston Bike System.

Sidewalks connect parts of the City, but currently there is no planned network, other than on major streets and surrounding the elementary schools (the "Safe Schools Route"). The Planning and Zoning Commission is having the City's Comprehensive Plan revised and will be addressing how to connect the other important areas of the city such as parks and neighborhoods. The Commission will be reviewing and possibly approving the Master Park Plan and will include it and the pathway plan within the Comprehensive Plan. Both the Parks Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan will be subject to public input and council approval.



# PATHWAYS *continued*

## NEWCASTLE TRAIL

**Location:** On the west side of Newcastle Street between Beechnut and Glenmont

**Size:** 2.5 Miles

**History:**

This property is not dedicated parkland in the City of Bellaire, however, the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department ensures that the trail is maintained in a safe manner. The space is the City's right of way and the open space was created when the open storm drain system (ditch) was enclosed and covered in the 1960's. The resultant grassy area has been improved with a concrete and asphalt multi-use trail approximately 12 feet wide that is continuous from Beechnut Street on the south to Glenmont Street on the north. Newcastle Street is a two-way, no shoulder, high traffic street in a residential area.

In 1976 a Final Report of the Bellaire Bicycle Advisory Committee was presented to the City Council containing bicycling information, survey results and recommendations. First priority was an Inner-City Routes including along Newcastle from Evergreen - Fournace). Subsequently this trail became the reality that is today a multi-use, separated concrete trail.

**Site Description:**

The area consists of a landscaped strip on a two-lane, 30 MPH residential street with various improvements, including the concrete/asphalt trail. Landscaping consists mostly of maintained grass that the owners adjacent to the trail are charged with maintaining, and some scattered trees and other plant materials. The trail is on the west side of the street. Street lights provide some spill-over illumination at night.

**Trail Inventory:**

- Multi-use Walking/jogging trail from Beechnut Street to Glenmont
- Mileage Markers

**Needs Assessment:**

- Replace asphalt part of the trail with concrete – from Bellaire Blvd. to Glenmont
- Improve trail lighting
- Continue investigating connectivity to the County's Brays Bayou Trail to the south and the City of Houston trails to the north and working with CenterPoint Energy for the possible use of their ROW on the east side of Bellaire
- Landscape and irrigation
- Pathway lighting
- Trash receptacles
- Doggie waste stations
- Improved mileage markers







# PATHWAYS *continued*

## HOLLY STREET TRAIL

**Location:** On the esplanade of Holly Street between South Rice Avenue and Loop 610

**Size:** .5 Miles each way

**History:**

This property is not dedicated parkland in the City of Bellaire, however, the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department ensures that the trail is maintained in a safe manner. The space is actually the median strip between opposed traffic lanes on a residential street. It has limited facilities but a potential for more improvements.

**Site Description:**

The area consists of a landscaped median strip on a two-lane, 30 MPH residential street with various improvements, including the crushed granite gravel trail. Landscaping consists mostly of maintained grass and a center row of mature trees. Street lights provide some spill-over illumination at night, but could use additional lighting.

**Trail Inventory:**

- Multi-use Walking/jogging loop trail from South Rice to 610 Loop
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles

**Needs Assessment:**

- Implement the Master Site Plan
- Improvements include: Irrigation, additional trees, landscaping and amenities approved by City Council in 2015





# PATHWAYS *continued*

## PROPOSED PATHWAYS

The City of Bellaire has planned for many years – most recently in the 2009 Comprehensive Plan – to create a pedestrian and bicycle friendly system to connect all four quadrants of the City with each other and with major community and commercial destinations. Additionally, pedestrian and bike trails/paths were listed as the top need by Bellaire citizens in the 1999 and 2013 surveys.

While agreeing with the goal of linking the entire City, this proposed pathways plan equally emphasizes the need to create pedestrian/bikeway loops within neighborhoods. Focus group discussions have confirmed that residents are more likely to use trails/routes if they can access them easily from their own home and use them for recreation, fitness and transportation within their own immediate neighborhood.

## PROPOSED PATHWAY GRIDS

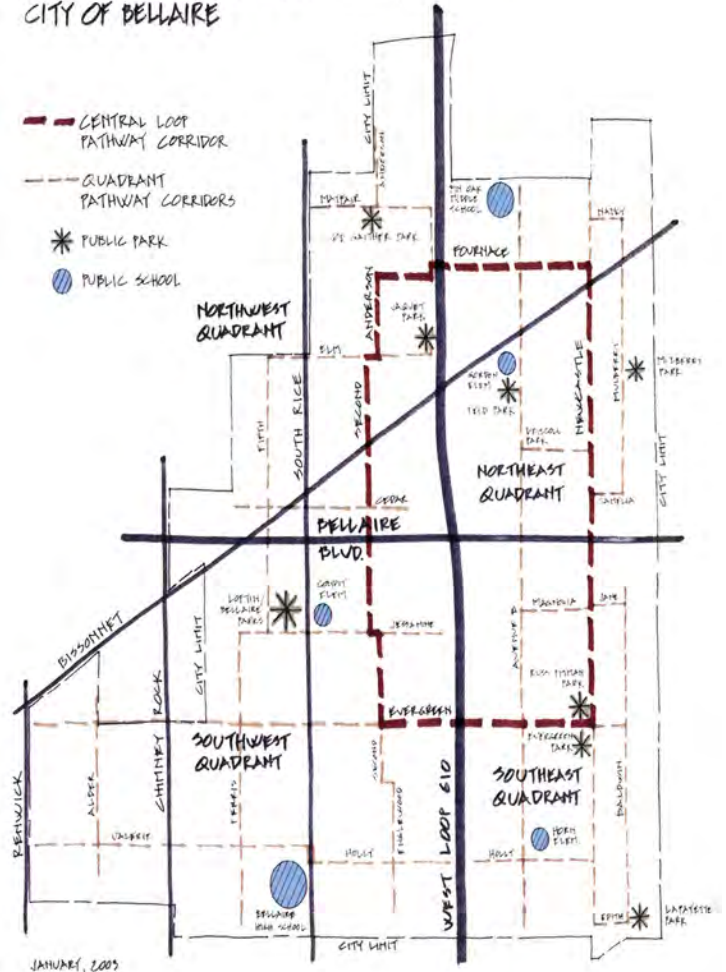
This proposal divides the City into a series of grids. These grids represent a network for all users, from pedestrians and skaters to recreational cyclists and joggers. In most cases, the pathways stretch through the center of a neighborhood, instead of a long stretch on the one busy edge of the neighborhood. These streets generally are quieter, more pleasant and safer for recreational use. Stretching through the neighborhood should attract residents from both sides of the City. (See Addendum).

### Options to Consider:

Install trails or sidewalks, 4-6 feet wide, on both sides of the street. Put a bike route or, in some cases, a bike lane along the street. (Most practical option for streets in good repair, especially those with partial sidewalks already.

1. Install trails or sidewalks, 4-6 feet wide, on both sides of the street. Put a bike route or, in some cases, a bike lane along the street. (Most practical option for streets in good repair, especially those with partial sidewalks already. Follow P&Z recommendations for width and construction options.)
2. Rebuild the street off-center to allow for an 8-foot shared – use trail on one side of the street. (This is the best option for streets in need of rebuilding. It provides for minimal incursion into lawns and landscaping.) No need for bike route or bike lane in street.
3. Restrict parking to one side and narrow the street pavement width to make room for an 8-foot shared-use trail on the narrowed side. (Option for streets in good repair with lots siding on one or both sides of the street, thus reducing the need for on-street parking.) No need for bike route or bike lane in street.

## PATHWAYS PLAN CITY OF BELLAIRE





# PATHWAYS *continued*

Note: A professionally designed trail / pathway master plan should be designed that would include citizens input, identification of user groups, organizations or businesses impacted, structural and safety concerns and partnership opportunities.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS

As focus group interviews have pointed out, education and easy-access information will be key in spreading news of these new pathways and in encouraging their use. Suggestions:

1. Maps, for pedestrians and cyclists, with fixed-length routes delineated by colors or names. This would allow residents, for instance, to choose the “Blue” trail to go 1 mile, the “Red” trail to go 3 miles or “Trolley Run” trail to go 5 kilometers, the “Safe School Route” to reach elementary schools, and so on. These routes should include at least one child’s pathway that is safe and accessible by small bikes and skates and, ideally, would feature objects of interest along the way (bridges, art, nature education, treasure hunt, historical homes, and the like). These maps should be distributed at City events and be available at the recreation center, Library, City Hall and on-line.
2. Safety education, to promote safety (bikes, jogging, skates, street crossing, trail-driveway awareness) with programs held in partnership with police and/or fire department.





# PARK ACQUISITION

As the City of Bellaire continues to redevelop, the City should remain aware as to the future recreational needs of its citizens. While it is difficult to predict what the city's space requirements will be in ten years, as old houses and buildings are torn down for new development, acquisition opportunities may arise from time to time. Such acquisitions could include additional land and even structures of historic value which the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department could convert to additional recreation and/or meeting space for the community. For this reason the Mayor, City Council, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the PATRONS for Bellaire Parks remain watchful as to possible opportunities.

One of the goals concerning number of parks is to have a park within walking distance of every resident of Bellaire. The identified areas that lack parks are the Northwest and Southwest quadrants of the city. One way to meet that goal is to purchase property in those areas when they become available and then create mini or neighborhood parks depending on the size of the property. These parks serve people within a .25 - .50 mile radius.

Acquire additional green space and/or field space by pursuing cooperative arrangements with outside organizations. The City already has agreements with HISD schools for field use, CenterPoint Energy for Right of Way (ROW) use at Mulberry Park for the parking lot, future ROW use for Evelyn's Park by the railroad tracks by Bellaire Boulevard and United Methodist Church for Evelyn's Park overflow parking. Negotiations have begun with NRG for use of the ROW on the east side of town for a bike/pedestrian trail that will tie in with the proposed trail for the City of Houston.





# IMPLEMENTATION & FUNDING

In order to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, there are a variety of funding mechanisms and development tools available to the City. It is unrealistic to expect the City to assume full responsibility for funding all expansion and improvements of the park solely from the City's tax receipts. Other sources of funding and types of financing should also be sought in order to make the Master Plan a reality. Some of these resources are listed below:

**User Fees:** This method of financing requires the eventual user of each park and/or program to pay a fee for use of each facility and program costs. Fees to be charged each user can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance and operations of the park system.

**Capital Improvement:** The Capital Improvement (CIP) is used to provide financial resources for the acquisition, construction or repair to major capital facilities maintained by the City. The Capital Improvement receives the majority of its revenue from ad valorem taxes and transfers from other funds.

**Harris County Funds:** The City of Bellaire is located within Harris County, to which Bellaire residents pay taxes. When requested for funding assistance, Harris County has partially funded specific projects such as the Therapy Pool and/or has actually built facilities such as Newcastle Trail and the storage building at the Evergreen Pool. The County has been supportive of the Nature Discovery Center over the years. Request for funding is made through Harris County, Precinct 3, the precinct in which Bellaire is located.

**Texas Recreation and Parks Account Program:** This program administered by Texas Park and Wildlife is a 50% - 50% matching grant program which may be used to aid communities in acquisition and development of parks and open space. The grant process is administered once a year.

**General Obligation Bonds:** These bonds are issued by the City following an election in which the voters authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. The bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the City.

**Certificates of Obligation:** These certificates have basically the same effect as the general obligation bonds except that they do not require an election to be authorized. An election can be petitioned by five percent of the registered voters of the City. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the City, utility system revenues or combination of the two.

**Private or Corporate Donations:** Grants and donations from foundations, corporations and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The City should constantly identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding for parks. One avenue for receiving donations is through the PATRONS for Bellaire Parks, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that their sole purpose is to help fund Bellaire park projects. So far, they have donated 1.6 million dollars to various park projects. Another way donations are accepted is through the City's Special Projects Fund where funds can be earmarked for purchases such as trees, park amenities and playground equipment.



# MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS

## BELLAIRE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

The Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission was established by Bellaire City Council in 2003 to enhance the quality of life in Bellaire with public and performing art by transforming the places we live, work and play into more welcoming and beautiful environments. Commission meetings are open to the public the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in City Hall.

## BELLAIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To learn more about Bellaire's fascinating 100 year history, join the Bellaire Historical Society. Educational meetings are the second Thursday of every month September through May at 6:30 pm in City Hall. See the website, [www.bellairehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bellairehistoricalsociety.org)



BELLAIRE CENTENNIAL  
HISTORY MARKERS



TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS



© BELLAIRE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION, 2010

- Bellaire Trolley Station and Pavilion, 1911**  
Folks would wait for or disembark from the trolley at the Trolley Pavilion, but they also gathered there for picnics, Church school, and all sorts of community activities. A replica of the Pavilion, constructed by the Bellaire Historical Society, was located at S. Rice & Bellaire from 2000 to 2008.

- Rosner's General Store and US Post Office, 1929**  
The "main" street of Bellaire was Cedar, and the chief center of commerce was Rosner's General Store. Rosner's faced south on the northwest corner of South Rice and Cedar. In 1929, Rosner's built the store shown in this drawing to replace Munger's general store.

- "The Little Brown" Bellaire's First One-room School**  
In 1910, A. J. Condit prevailed upon the Harris County School Board to provide one teacher for Bellaire's twenty students. The house, second from the corner was "The Little Brown." There was room for 36 desks. The building also served as town meeting hall, and the Union Sunday School.

**H4 - Bellaire Bicentennial Veterans Memorial**

**H5 - Texas Historical Commission Marker Texas Capture of Mexican Dispatchers**

- Alfred J. Condit House, Damaged in 1915 Hurricane**  
The home of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Condit still stands on the northwest corner of Bellaire Blvd. and First Street. During the hurricane this house lost its roof and second floor, and the City lost a third of its buildings. After the hurricane everyone gathered at Condit School bringing food to share.

- Convent of the Incarnate Word, 1931**  
In 1927 Rev. Mother M. Scholastica bought 40 acres at Post Oak Road and Bissonnet to build a boarding school and convent. Ground was broken in 1931 for the four-story building. The property was sold in 1976, and today is home to The Episcopal High School.

**H6 - Texas Historical Commission Marker Teas Nursery, Bellaire's First Business**

- Home of Frank S. Henshaw, Jr., Mayor, 1933-1937**  
Built by Earl E. Edwards in 1925, this house served for 54 years as the homestead of Frank Henshaw. In 1983, the Friends of Bellaire Parks purchased the estate and began a six-year renovation effort. Today the Nature Discovery Center inspires us to be responsible caretakers of the earth.

Production Credits:  
Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission  
Bellaire Historical Society  
2005-2010 Bellaire City Council, Cindy Siegel, Mayor

Research, Design, Editorial: Kathryn Hardin, Kay Hieronymus,  
Lynn McBee  
Illustrations: Jim Arp  
Centennial Logo Art: Don Goodell  
Publication Date: March 2010  
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BELLAIRE CULTURAL  
ARTS COMMISSION

## City of Bellaire CENTENNIAL HISTORY WALK Bellaire, Texas



Welcome to the City of Bellaire, Texas, Centennial History Walk. This walking tour was designed to enrich our community through a recognition of how we have grown over the last 100 years. You may begin your walk at any place along the route. This walk is a joint effort of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission, Bellaire Historical Society and the Bellaire Centennial Committee in honor of our City Centennial Celebration 1908-2008 and the City of Bellaire.



- City Hall, Community Center and Library**  
This building was erected in 1949. Prior to that, taxes were paid at the home or business of the city secretary. The 1949 building was replaced in 1981 by the current Bellaire Civic Center, the hub of Bellaire Town Square. In 1947, Mayor Madison Rayburn named Bellaire "The City of Homes."

**H1 - Texas Historical Commission Marker Bellaire City Hall Site**

- Original Bellaire School Building, 1914**  
Bellaire School on Laurel Street stood on pilings that lifted the classrooms and auditorium above the occasional flood and shaded student activities. In 1928 Bellaire joined H.I.S.D. and built an addition facing Third Street. In 1959 the school was greatly expanded, and the Laurel building was torn down. The school was renamed for A. J. Condit.

- Bellaire Mission Presbyterian Church, 1919**  
With the help of First Presbyterian Church of Houston, Bellaire Mission Presbyterian built a white frame sanctuary on the southwest corner of Bellaire and Third, facing the esplanade. In 1931, a larger building replaced the original church, then, as the congregation grew, was replaced again in 1957.

**H2 - Texas Historical Commission Marker Bellaire Presbyterian Church**

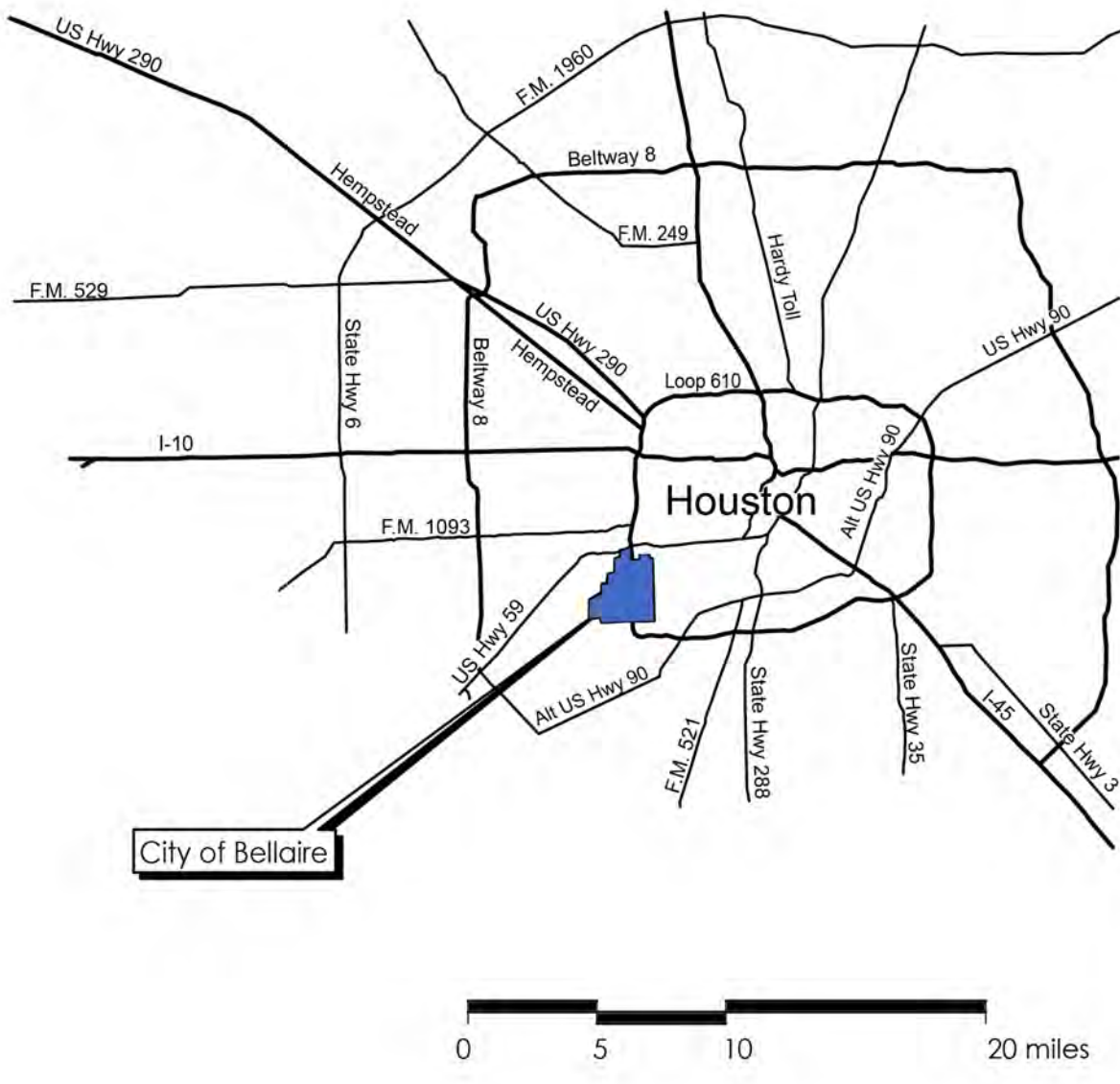
- Trolley Dedication Day, 1910**  
The Trolley has become the unofficial symbol of Bellaire. Dubbed the "Toonerville Trolley" after a popular newspaper cartoon, it traveled across six miles of prairie bringing residents to high school, work, and the shopping mecca of Downtown Houston. The trolley ran from 1910 until 1927.

**H3 - Texas Historical Commission Marker Bellaire Streetcar Line**



## MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS *continued*

# City of Bellaire

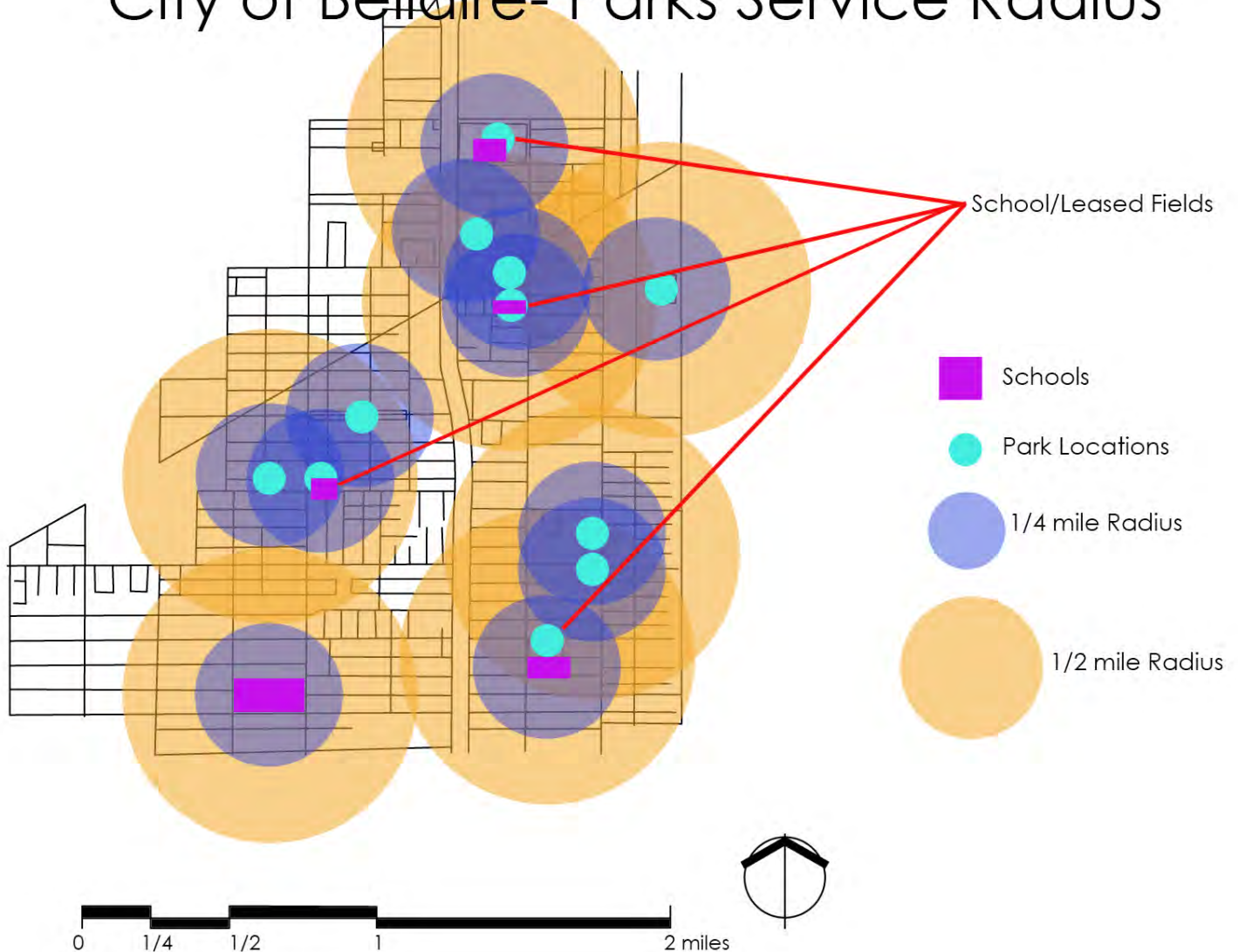






## MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS *continued*

### City of Bellaire- Parks Service Radius



## APPENDIX



**A P P E N D I X   A :   H I S T O R Y   O F   P A R K S**





# HISTORY OF PARKS

**Bellaire Town Square:** Consists of City Hall/Civic Center, Recreation Center, Police Department and two parks:

## BELLAIRE ZINDLER PARK

7008 South Rice Avenue

7.5 Acres

Originally known as Bellaire Park but renamed “Bellaire Zindler Park” on November 19, 2007. City Council meeting minutes show references to the park as early as 1952. On October 20, 1980 a resolution authorized the City Manager to execute a “Recreation and Open Space Fund Agreement” with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and a “Certificate of Land Dedication for Park Use” to improve the park. A playground and park site amenities were added to the park. In 1993, the gymnasium was replaced by the Bellaire Recreation Center.

In 2005, a Parks Master Plan for the combined parks, Bellaire Zindler and Loftin Parks and referred as, Bellaire Town Square, created by Clark Condon Associates, was approved. The plan was implemented in phases:

- Bellaire Family Aquatics Center, \$3.6 million dollar project - general obligation bonds provided the majority of the funding while partially funded by Patrons for Bellaire Parks (PATRONS), with a \$1.25 million dollar donation - 2007 and 2008.
- Loftin Park Improvements – playground, sidewalk system, lighting and site amenities. PATRONS donated \$100,000 towards the construction costs - 2009.
- Donor Plaza by the west side of City Hall surrounding the Gazebo, consisting of a donor wall & plaza, lighting, site amenities Completely paid for by the PATRONS - \$150,000, 2011 and 2012. The City had the Gazebo refurbished at the same time as the donor plaza was being built - 2012.
- Multi-purpose Great Lawn - Consists of an event pavilion, sidewalk system, lighting and site amenities, \$100,000 - 2013.



## LOFTIN PARK

7008 South Rice Avenue

1.0 Acre

The City of Bellaire purchased twelve residential lots over a twenty five year period beginning in 1972. All but one house was demolished. After the last property was purchased, the City had an agreement with the Houston

Historical Foundation where they moved the remaining house to another location in Houston to be used by a family in need. In 1991 the City Council decided to maintain the property as open green space named Laurel Street

Park. It was renamed Loftin Park on December 16, 1996 after former Bellaire Police Chief Jerry Loftin and his wife Roena, former City Clerk. The following additions have been made:

- Drainage - 1992
- Landscaping - 1996
- Fencing, signage, plaque, benches, picnic table, BBQ pits and memorial trees - 1997-98
- Playground, sidewalk system, lighting and site amenities - 2010



## EVELYN'S PARK

4400 Bellaire Boulevard

5 Acres

Originally the Teas Nursery property, purchased by the Jerry and Maury Rubenstein Foundation, then conveyed to the City on February 25, 2011 and was named "Evelyn's Park" in honor of their late mother. The land was dedicated as a public park on June 20, 2011.

In 1908, Edward Teas, Sr., a well-known horticulturist, and his family, moved to Bellaire from Joplin, Missouri. He purchased ten acres of land where he built his family home and started Teas Nursery, to grow plants and trees for Bellaire and Westmoreland Farms. Teas specialized in fruit trees and flowering plants, but moved to landscaping as well. Teas help plant most of Houston including the landscaping of Rice University and River Oaks. By 1951, Teas Nursery had planted over 1 million trees in the Houston area.

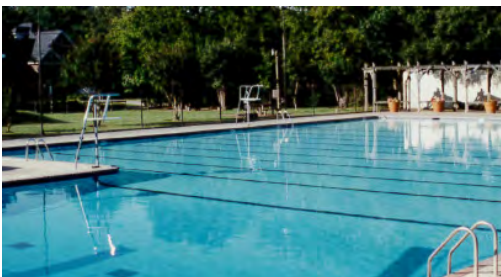
After one hundred years of a thriving business, Teas Nursery closed its doors and sold five acres to a builder and the other five were sold to the Rubenstein family foundation a few years later.

The Evelyn's Park Conservancy was formed to raise funds for the park. Along with \$2 million dollars from the Conservancy, the City of Bellaire residents voted in November 2013, for a \$5 million bond to build the park. The first Phase is in place to begin construction in early 2015.

Teas Nursery



1. Original Building
2. Building multi-story
3. Office Building single story
4. Secure Building
5. Greenhouse
6. Metal Frame Barn
7. Pavilion
8. Metal Frame Greenhouse
9. Pump Buildings



## EVERGREEN PARK

4500 Evergreen Street

2.1 Acres

Property was acquired by the City in the early 1950's from former mayor Frank Henshaw (1936 - 37) to be used for a park site and water plant. Park was originally used as a Pee Wee ball field and included swings and slides.

In February of 1979, the Friends for Bellaire Parks, was organized as an outgrowth of the Parks Advisory Committee and planned the construction of a playground. The City budgeted \$7,000 for materials with all labor being volunteered. A contest was sponsored by the Friends, for elementary students to design their ideal playground. The plans were completed by a Texas A&M architectural student. The project was completed in 1981, which included play equipment, landscaping, park amenities and split rail fence.

The Bellaire Wellness Club raised funds for years in hopes to construct a year-round, heated therapy pool with related amenities. The therapy pool was completed and a storage/office building was constructed by Harris County Precinct 3 in 2000.

The following additions have been made:

- 25 meter L-shaped pool, diving well with 1 & 3 Meter diving boards - 1957
- Playground, landscaping, picnic tables, benches and fence - 1981





## EVERGREEN PARK *continued*

- Redeveloped playground and replaced old equipment - 1994
- Pool facelift - 1996
- Therapy pool and storage building - 2000
- Shade structures, wind walls, new lighting, pool house roof and pool blankets - 2001-02
- Playground Equipment replaced - 2006
- Pool house reconstructed after a fire - 2013
- Water tank removal, irrigation added, landscaping planted and hydro-mulched - 2014

## FELD PARK

6406 Avenue B

4.7 Acres

In April 1951, the City purchased land from Mrs. W. J. Jameson to be used for a water well site and a park. On September 5th the same year, M. M. Feld, President of the Lone Star Bag and Bagging Company, donated the remaining acreage and an additional \$5000 was raised by the citizens and local businesses to build the athletic fields, tennis courts, playground and parking lot. The HISD Mandarin School is adjacent to the park and uses the city parking lot and park. The Optimist Club of Bellaire runs the adult softball leagues and maintains the fields. Bellaire Parks & Recreation and the Express Soccer Club use the outfield for the youth soccer program.

The following additions have been made:

- The Scout house served the scouts, Optimist Club, summer day camps and rentals since the 50's, but was demolished in 2002, since it was beyond its' useful life. Constructing a new facility for the community has been discussed.
- Wooden deck built and funded by Optimist Club of Bellaire - 1997
- Backfield netting, 45 feet high, erected in 2001, to help softballs from hitting the neighbor's houses. Partially paid for by the Optimist Club of Bellaire.
- Tennis Courts reconstructed with post tension concrete base in 1997, resurfaced in 2014.
- Art bench installed - 2007
- Concession Stand demolished - 2010
- Free standing restroom with storage - 2010
- Replaced split rail fence with a 4 ft. black decorative aluminum fence - 2011







## HORN FIELD

4535 Pine

3.1 Acres

The City of Bellaire, Operator, entered into a lease agreement with Houston Independent School District, Owner, in 1985 and was effective through 2005, then renewed until June 2021. The lease allows the City to utilize the fields for youth sports. Effective through 2021, the City has an agreement with



Bellaire Little League, for them to run their program in exchange for Little League to maintain the fields. Horn School was rebuilt in 2011, where the school and fields were flipped from their original sites. Bellaire Little League raised over \$600,000 along with \$45,000 from the City, and had the ball fields completely constructed.

The following additions were made:

- 2 lighted youth baseball fields, 1 lighted tee ball field, both with backstops, dugouts and bleachers
- 2 batting cages
- Concession stand with restroom facilities and storage
- Horn School has a large pavilion and playground area

## HOUSTON HILLS PARK

9720 Ruffino Road

Houston, Texas

75 Acres

In the past, this property was used as the City's landfill and adjacent to the West University's landfill. The property was dedicated as permanent public parkland and named "Houston Hills Park" on February 22, 1988. For many years, the property was leased out to a company and used as the Houston Hills Golf Course until the owner defaulted on payments and the City cancelled the lease. In 2001, of the 75 acres, 14 acres were leased to a company to be used as a trash transfer station and is still being run as such. The remaining acreage is green space, not used by the public.



## JOE GAITHER PARK

4901 Anderson Street

3.1 Acres

Texaco Park land was acquired through a fee simple deed from neighboring Texaco Inc. in October 1994. Since that time, the property was purchased by Chevron and the deed remains in effect. In November 1996, the park was officially dedicated as Joe Gaither Park in memory of Joe Gaither, a long-time Bellaire High School teacher and Bellaire resident.

The following additions were made:

- Playground equipment – partially paid for by Precinct 3 and installed by Boy Scouts and other Bellaire resident volunteers and P&R staff – 1996 – play structure & swings
- Wood fence, landscaping and playground border constructed by Eagle Scouts - 1996

## LAFAYETTE PARK

4337 Lafayette Street

1.5 Acres

The City of Bellaire purchased thirteen (13) residential lots in this city block from six separate owners from 1965-66. The northwest corner was established as a park and the remaining land was designated for future use as a solid waste transfer station. The Bellaire Civic Club convinced the city to drop those plans on March 20, 1978 and an additional acre of land was added to the park, designating all of it as a public park. The following additions have been made:

- Wood play structure - 1985
- Metal and plastic play structure replaced the wood - 1994
- Fencing and soccer field for 5 to 7 year-olds built with funds from the Bellaire Optimist Club - 1997
- Off-leash dog facility (3/4 of an acre) in Lafayette Park permanently named and forever known as the “Officer Lucy Dog Park” on September 20, 2004.
- Scout projects completed: two shade structures for the dog park; trees, bushes and benches added to the park
- Replacement of site amenities were made throughout the years



## LOCUST PARK

4600 Locust

.5 Acre

On May 18, 1979 the City and F.R. McCord of Jacinto Development Company, created the park through a cooperative agreement. The land was originally part of a homestead with a large pecan grove. The city abandoned and relocated public street right-of-way and the Jacinto conveyed the land to serve as a park and green space buffer for the neighbors. Due to the close proximity of Feld and Vic Driscoll parks, no major site amenities have been added, only benches and picnic tables.





## MULBERRY PARK

700 Mulberry Lane

3.2 Acres

The City of Bellaire purchased residential lots from the Shields and Richardson families that were contiguous with city-owned land in three separate years - 1955, 1964 and 1973. The park was dedicated in 1977 and funded by General Obligation Bonds. A grant was also administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. for the National Park Service. The athletic field is named in memory of Elizabeth Furler, a former Bellaire resident, Little League volunteer and Optimist Club member. The parking lot is on the CenterPoint Energy right of way and the City pays \$50/year for the right to use the land. The following improvements have been made:

- Parking lot - 1987
- Play area and four foot fencing - 1988
- Six foot fencing funded by Optimist club - 1998
- Concession stand and batting cage - 1998
- Walking trail constructed & donated by Eagle Scouts - 2001
- Tennis courts re-constructed with post-tension concrete - 2001, resurfaced in 2013
- Playground equipment replaced in 2006



## PASEO PARK

Esplanade located along Bellaire Boulevard between Loop 610 and South Rice Avenue

6.6 Acres



The portion of the Bellaire Boulevard esplanade west of Highway 610 was dedicated as a park in 1986. The Bellaire Boulevard Beautification Committee had a master plan designed for this area including Bellaire Blvd. east of Highway 610. In 1997, a \$160,000 grant was awarded from Texas Dept. of Transportation and was used for overall improvements. The following improvements have since been made:

- Sidewalk system, lighting, irrigation, site amenities and memorial marker donor area - 1997/8
- Historical Marker dedicated, at Second Street - 1989
- Historical Marker dedicated, near trolley car - 1993
- Scout House replaced by a pavilion replicating the old Trolley Car Station, paid for by the Bellaire Historical Society - 2000. Due to untreated wood beams, that deteriorated, the Trolley Pavilion had to be demolished - 2009
- Art - 1 bench and art piece erected - 2007
- Master site plan for the area between Rice and Third Streets by Clark Condon Associates - 2010





## PIN OAK FIELD

At 610 Loop & Glenmont St.

7 Acres

In 1993, the Houston Independent School District (HISD), purchased 18 acres of land to build Pin Oak Middle School. In June of 2001, the City and HISD entered into a 10 year lease agreement and then extended again until 2020. The agreement gives the City the right to use 7 acres of field space for baseball and soccer activities as well as any special event outside of school hours. The Bellaire Little League and Bellaire Soccer Club organizations jointly raised funds to enhance the fields with high quality turf, irrigation, soccer goals, fencing, batting cages, lighting and bleachers. The fields officially opened in 2001 for fall soccer and the baseball fields in 2002. The City also has permission to use indoor facilities if needed.

## RUSS PITMAN PARK

7112 Newcastle Drive

.5 Acre

Formerly known as Henshaw Estate Park and dedicated for public outdoor recreational purposes on July 11, 1983; a "Certificate for Land Dedication for Park Use" was completed on January 16, 1984, identifying the name of the park as Bellaire Henshaw Park; renamed Russ Pitman Park on February 20, 1984. This property was acquired by the City as a gift from the Friends of Bellaire Parks and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



The recorded history of the land goes back to 1841, when it became part of a land grant to John Belden. Upon Belden's death, the land was deeded to E. A. Patterson. In 1892, it became part of the 23,000 acre Rice Estate. The land was deeded in 1901 to Rice University, and in 1909 it was deeded to the South End Land Company, which divided the property into lots and blocks that exist today. W.W. Baldwin, the principal stockholder in the Land Company, developed Westmoreland Farms. In those years, it was an experimental farm established by the developers to show prospective buyers what could be grown on the one to three acre lots intended for residential farm gardens.

Mr. E.E. Edward, President of the Sealy Mattress Company, subsequently bought the property and in 1925, he and his wife, Grace, built a one story brick veneered house on the land. In 1929, Frank S. Henshaw, Jr., Mayor from 1936-37, bought the estate. In 1939, he added a second story to the brick house. The estate passed to Henshaw's children, Betty, Frank and Jack, upon his death in 1968.

On April 4, 1981, the property was advertised for sale and the residents petitioned Bellaire City Council to buy the property for park land. Funds were not available at the time, but the project was endorsed by the Council. An application was filed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to obtain the tract of land for park use.

The Friends of Bellaire Parks, (Friends), began a fund drive to raise half the funds for the purchase. In February 1983, the land was purchased by the Friends, represented by the Trust for Public Land. The land was cleared of underbrush, trees were pruned and the property was maintained by the Friends. Restoration of the house began in August 1983. In February of 1984, 60% (2.2 acres) of the Estate was deeded to the City. This was made possible by funding from the Friends (almost 60%) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In January of 1985, the additional 1.5 acres were deeded to the City with the Friends providing over 60% of the funding and the Texas Parks and Wildlife providing the balance.



## RUSS PITMAN PARK *continued*



In February 1984, the Bellaire City Council named the park after Russ Pitman, a co-donor of \$100,000 for the purchase of the second phase (1.5 acres) of the 3.75 acre property. The Park was dedicated on March 31, 1985. In July 1986, additional land was acquired for a parking lot on the north side of the Park. A bas relief of Mr. Pitman on a monument of granite was added to the Park. The Henshaw House was completely restored and furnished by the Friends. On April 17, 1989, the Bellaire City Council adopted policies and procedures for the use of the house. The Friends were given a lease to occupy the second floor, to be used for their Nature Discovery Center. The downstairs is designated as a community center available for meetings, special events and Nature Discovery classes.



Russ Pitman Park and its Nature center is one of the jewels of Bellaire and is treasured and protected. The Park is on the Great Texas Birding Trail and attracts many bird watchers. This unique environment is a sanctuary to animals and people alike. On weekend mornings someone is on just about every park bench – reading, talking, gazing at birds, or lost in thought. The Center is busy on Saturdays with scout troops working on badges in the Henshaw House or identifying plants and wildlife in the park. In addition to the families who routinely walk the park's paths, the park is visited almost every school day by groups on field trips.

Many additions have made throughout the years, thanks to hundreds of volunteers, scouts, business sponsors and staff members.

- Park amenities such as benches, picnic tables and fencing
- Trails, landscaping, gardens and specific wildlife areas: East Texas Woodland, Prairie Wetland, Pocket Prairie and Thrush Hollow
- Playground equipment has been replaced three times
- Henshaw House renovation in 2013



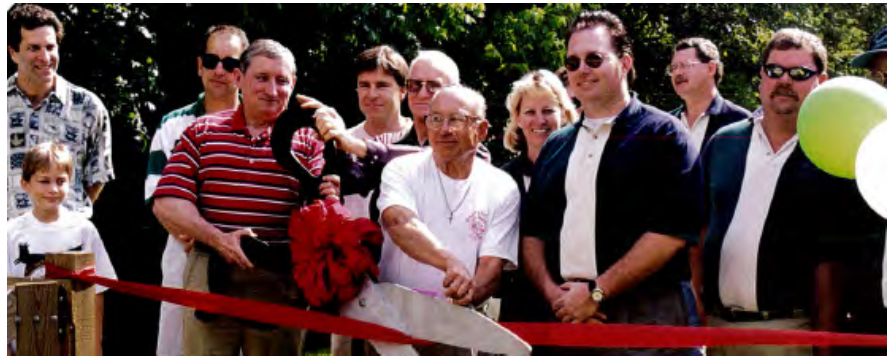


## VIC DRISCOLL PARK

4500 Locust Street

.5 Acre

Consisted of the undeveloped portion of the Locust Street right-of-way between Newcastle Drive and Avenue B; designated as a city park on May 5, 1997; named Vic Driscoll Park on July 21, 1997, dedicated on April 25, 1998. Vic Driscoll was a longtime resident, teacher, principal, volunteer and friend of Bellaire.



- Two Eagle Scout projects consisted of planting trees, constructing a crushed-granite gravel trail, adding benches and trash cans
- Trail was re-constructed with a concrete base - 2008

## WARE FAMILY PARK

6200 Jaquet Street

1 Acre



Formerly known as Jaquet Park, was dedicated as a city park on July 3, 1995 and officially deeded to the City of Bellaire by the state of Texas on August 15, 1996. It was created as a result of the condemnation of homes on the east side of Jaquet street during the construction of Highway 610. The park was renamed Ware Family Park on August 3, 2009, after former Mayor Louise Ware and her family, who volunteered hundreds of hours to the City.

The following additions have been made:

- Wood play equipment replaced with metal and plastic structure, added swings - 1994
- Playground equipment replaced – 2006
- Replacement of wood fencing with decorative aluminum fencing and sidewalk added - 2014

The following additions have been made:

- Wood play equipment replaced with metal and plastic structure in 1994



**A P P E N D I X   B :   S U R V E Y   R E S U L T S**

## Bellaire Parks and Recreation Survey

This survey is being conducted by the Bellaire Parks Advisory Board and Bellaire Parks & Recreation. The intent of this study is to understand the parks and recreational needs of the community.

### A. General Parks and Recreation Questions

1. From the list provided, please rate what you feel are the top 10 facility needs of the City as a whole with #1 being the most needed.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> additional sports                 | <input type="checkbox"/> nature study area             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animals                           | <input type="checkbox"/> open fields                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> amphitheater                      | <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor basketball facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art                               | <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor group exercise areas  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baseball fields                   | <input type="checkbox"/> picnic tables                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> covered pavilions                 | <input type="checkbox"/> playgrounds, equipped         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fitness trail                     | <input type="checkbox"/> skate park                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> food facilities                   | <input type="checkbox"/> soccer/football fields        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gardens (floral or produce)       | <input type="checkbox"/> softball fields               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> golf holes                        | <input type="checkbox"/> tennis courts                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> handball, racquetball courts      | <input type="checkbox"/> trail miles, multi-use        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> indoor basketball facilities      | <input type="checkbox"/> volleyball courts             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> meditation areas                  | other: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> natural water features/structures |  |

2. The following is a list of the City parks and recreational facilities. Please check the parks or facilities that you have visited within the last 12 months.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Bellaire Recreation Center                 | <input type="checkbox"/> q. Loftin Park                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Bellaire-Zindler Park                      | <input type="checkbox"/> r. Mulberry Park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Bellaire Town Square Family Aquatic Center |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Bellaire Tennis Courts                     | <input type="checkbox"/> s. Mulberry Athletic Field               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Elaine Wood Therapy Pool                   | <input type="checkbox"/> t. Mulberry Tennis Courts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f. Evergreen Park                             | <input type="checkbox"/> u. Nature Discovery Center               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h. Evergreen Pool                             | <input type="checkbox"/> v. Newcastle Trail                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i. Feld Park                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> w. Paseo Park                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> j. Feld tennis Courts                         | <input type="checkbox"/> x. Russ Pitman Park                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> k. Holly Street Trail                         | <input type="checkbox"/> y. Vic Driscoll Park                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> l. Joe Gaither Park                           | <input type="checkbox"/> z. Ware Family Park                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> m. Jessamine Field                            | <input type="checkbox"/> zz. Not familiar with any/<br>do not use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> n. Lafayette Park                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> o. Lafayette Athletic Field                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> p. Locust Park                                |   |

5. What would you like to see in Bellaire's newest park, Evelyn's Park, located at Bellaire & Newcastle?

### B. Bellaire Recreation Center Use Questions

1. How often do you visit the Bellaire Recreation Center?

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> more than once per week | <input type="checkbox"/> monthly    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> weekly                  | <input type="checkbox"/> seldom     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> twice per week          | <input type="checkbox"/> not at all |

If not at all, do you use another recreational facility? Yes No

Why: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the best ways for you to learn about Recreation programming and events? Please check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure Activities Guide              | <input type="checkbox"/> local newspapers                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/city staff                 | <input type="checkbox"/> cable TV local access channel   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Bellaire website              | <input type="checkbox"/> flyers at the Recreation Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flyers at schools, library, City Hall |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                              | <input type="checkbox"/> City's online calendar          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs outside Recreation Center       | <input type="checkbox"/> posters around town             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> banners on the esplanade              | <input type="checkbox"/> email notifications             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> friends and neighbors                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |  |

3. If you have visited the Bellaire Recreation Center in the last six months, what were the main reasons for your visit(s)? Please check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fitness room            | <input type="checkbox"/> Jazzercise                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> open gym                | <input type="checkbox"/> attend a meeting                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reserve tennis court    | <input type="checkbox"/> attend birthday party           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reserve facility rental | <input type="checkbox"/> children's class/program        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reserve pool party      | <input type="checkbox"/> adult class/program             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adult basketball league | <input type="checkbox"/> get specific questions answered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> attend an event         | <input type="checkbox"/> register program/membership     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify)  |  |

4. Please rate your overall satisfaction in each of the following areas: (1 very satisfied, 2 satisfied, 3 unsatisfied, 4 very unsatisfied, 5 don't know)

3. From the list above, please rank the park/facilities that you use the most often by the corresponding letter.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_ #4 \_\_\_\_\_ #5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please check the level of priority which should be given by the City to the following projects. (1 being highest priority & 4 being lowest priority)

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Provide more lighted ball fields                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. Provide more trails (hiking, biking, jogging)                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| c. Develop more neighborhood parks                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| d. Develop larger park facilities                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| e. Spend more time/money beautifying the City                           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| f. Acquire additional parkland for the City                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| g. Develop larger sports complexes for baseball, softball and soccer    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| h. Spend more time/money developing and maintaining existing facilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

- |                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Helpfulness of front desk staff   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Knowledge of front desk staff     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Courteousness of front desk staff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Overall service                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Hours of Recreation Center        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. Upkeep of Recreation Center       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. Other comments:                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. What is your level of desire for the current programs/features we offer at the Bellaire Recreation Center: (1 just right, 2 need broader selection, 3 don't use, 4 didn't know you had this)

a. Adult exercise class	1	2	3	4
b. Adult informational classes	1	2	3	4
c. Fitness room	1	2	3	4
d. Open gym	1	2	3	4
e. Adult athletic leagues	1	2	3	4
f. Youth athletic leagues/programs	1	2	3	4
g. Youth informational classes	1	2	3	4
h. Youth dance	1	2	3	4
i. Youth gymnastics	1	2	3	4
j. Special events i.e. July 4th Parade & Festival	1	2	3	4
k. Senior adult exercise classes	1	2	3	4
l. Senior adult informational classes	1	2	3	4
m. Cultural activities	1	2	3	4
n. Free activities i.e. The Great Pumpkin Hunt	1	2	3	4
o. Music classes	1	2	3	4
p. Tennis court rentals	1	2	3	4
q. Facility/Pool rentals	1	2	3	4
r. Camp Paseo/Winter Day Camp	1	2	3	4
s. Specialty camps i.e. Camp Tie Dye	1	2	3	4
t. Online registration	1	2	3	4
u. Current registration process	1	2	3	4
v. After school programs	1	2	3	4
w. Other (please clarify)				

6. This question will help us learn what services you are accessing from your home or office: Have you:

a. Used bellairereg.com to register for a class/program/camp	Yes	No
b. Used bellairereg.com to reserve a tennis court	Yes	No
c. Registered for a class/or program by phone	Yes	No
d. Reserved a tennis court by phone	Yes	No

7. Overall, how important is the Bellaire Recreation Center to you?

Very Important	Somewhat important
Not very important	Not important

8. What do you believe are the three most important services, products or programming that the Bellaire Recreation Center currently offers?

1<sup>st</sup> Choice

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice

9. What recreational programs or facilities would you like The City to offer that is not currently offered?

10. What suggestions do you have for improving Bellaire Recreation Center services?

## C. Demographic Questions

1. Are you: Male Female

2. Age range: 6&under 19-24  
7-12 25-34  
13-15 35-64  
16-18 65+

3. How many children are living in your household?  
3& under 13-15  
4-6 16-18  
7-12 No Children in household

4. Are there other adults living in your household? Yes No

5. Please check the category(ies) which best describe(s) you. Circle all that apply.

Full time student At home parent  
Part time student Currently unemployed  
Work full time Retired  
Work part time Caretaker

6. Are you a Bellaire resident? Yes No

7. Do you live inside or outside Loop 610? Inside Outside

8. How long have you been using the Bellaire Recreation Center?  
Never 1-5 years  
6-10 years Less than one year  
More than 10 years

Would you be interested in someone from Bellaire Parks and Recreation contacting you?

If yes, please provide contact information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This survey is also available online at SurveyMonkey.com, the Bellaire Recreation Center, Bellaire City Hall, in the Leisure Activities Guide and a downloadable version online at [www.ci.bellaire.tx.us](http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us).

Please return the completed survey to:

Bellaire Parks and Recreation  
7008 South Rice Ave  
Bellaire, TX 77401  
Fax: 713-662-8295

Survey deadline is March 31, 2012.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.



1. From the list provided please choose what you feel are the top 10 facility/park needs of the City as a whole. Please rate your 10 choices in order of 1 to 10, with 1 being the most needed.

	1 Most Needed	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Additional sports	19.2% (10)	7.7% (4)	3.8% (2)	11.5% (6)	9.6% (5)	1.9% (1)	3.8% (2)	9.6% (5)	11.5% (6)	17.3% (9)	3.8% (2)	5.54	52
Animals	11.1% (5)	8.9% (4)	6.7% (3)	8.9% (4)	17.8% (8)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (3)	6.7% (3)	8.9% (4)	17.8% (8)	6.7% (3)	5.69	45
Amphitheater	11.8% (9)	13.2% (10)	7.9% (6)	14.5% (11)	9.2% (7)	7.9% (6)	9.2% (7)	7.9% (6)	10.5% (8)	5.3% (4)	2.6% (2)	5.01	76
Art	4.1% (3)	2.7% (2)	6.8% (5)	9.6% (7)	16.4% (12)	13.7% (10)	12.3% (9)	4.1% (3)	12.3% (9)	13.7% (10)	4.1% (3)	6.26	73
Baseball fields	21.4% (12)	7.1% (4)	10.7% (6)	8.9% (5)	8.9% (5)	10.7% (6)	7.1% (4)	7.1% (4)	5.4% (3)	12.5% (7)	0.0% (0)	4.93	56
Covered pavilions	21.6% (25)	17.2% (20)	6.9% (8)	10.3% (12)	9.5% (11)	4.3% (5)	6.0% (7)	6.0% (7)	10.3% (12)	6.9% (8)	0.9% (1)	4.48	116
Fitness trail	23.4% (40)	19.9% (34)	14.0% (24)	9.4% (16)	10.5% (18)	4.7% (8)	5.8% (10)	4.1% (7)	6.4% (11)	1.2% (2)	0.6% (1)	3.69	171
Food facilities	7.8% (5)	14.1% (9)	12.5% (8)	12.5% (8)	10.9% (7)	10.9% (7)	4.7% (3)	4.7% (3)	3.1% (2)	14.1% (9)	4.7% (3)	5.07	64
Gardens (floral or produce)	15.9% (23)	14.5% (21)	19.3% (28)	13.1% (19)	2.8% (4)	11.7% (17)	6.9% (10)	9.0% (13)	3.4% (5)	3.4% (5)	0.0% (0)	4.25	145

Golf holes	7.9% (3)	5.3% (2)	10.5% (4)	10.5% (4)	5.3% (2)	15.8% (6)	7.9% (3)	7.9% (3)	15.8% (6)	5.3% (2)	5.92	38
Handball, racquetball courts	2.8% (1)	5.6% (2)	5.6% (2)	13.9% (5)	8.3% (3)	11.1% (4)	19.4% (7)	8.3% (3)	19.4% (7)	2.8% (1)	6.17	36
Indoor basketball facilities	7.9% (3)	5.3% (2)	10.5% (4)	10.5% (4)	10.5% (4)	10.5% (4)	10.5% (4)	15.8% (6)	7.9% (3)	7.9% (3)	5.73	38
Meditation areas	2.5% (2)	14.8% (12)	13.6% (11)	7.4% (6)	18.5% (15)	7.4% (6)	7.4% (6)	11.1% (9)	8.6% (7)	4.9% (4)	5.27	81
Natural water features/structures	4.0% (5)	11.2% (14)	11.2% (14)	19.2% (24)	16.0% (20)	7.2% (9)	7.2% (9)	5.6% (7)	8.0% (10)	8.8% (11)	5.24	125
Nature study area	10.8% (9)	8.4% (7)	10.8% (9)	6.0% (5)	13.3% (11)	15.7% (13)	8.4% (7)	15.7% (13)	6.0% (5)	2.4% (2)	5.20	83
Open fields	8.6% (9)	12.4% (13)	9.5% (10)	10.5% (11)	8.6% (9)	13.3% (14)	13.3% (14)	9.5% (10)	6.7% (7)	6.7% (7)	5.28	105
Outdoor basketball facilities	0.0% (0)	10.9% (5)	10.9% (5)	2.2% (1)	13.0% (6)	13.0% (6)	17.4% (8)	6.5% (3)	8.7% (4)	17.4% (8)	6.33	46
Outdoor group exercise areas	2.3% (2)	8.1% (7)	7.0% (6)	12.8% (11)	10.5% (9)	10.5% (9)	16.3% (14)	7.0% (6)	11.6% (10)	10.5% (9)	6.06	86
Picnic tables	1.9% (2)	9.3% (10)	9.3% (10)	9.3% (10)	9.3% (10)	14.8% (16)	9.3% (10)	11.1% (12)	12.0% (13)	13.0% (14)	6.18	108
Playgrounds, equipped	13.2% (14)	9.4% (10)	12.3% (13)	10.4% (11)	15.1% (16)	9.4% (10)	11.3% (12)	9.4% (10)	4.7% (5)	3.8% (4)	4.82	106
Skate park	8.7% (4)	8.7% (4)	13.0% (6)	8.7% (4)	8.7% (4)	10.9% (5)	2.2% (1)	13.0% (6)	8.7% (4)	13.0% (6)	5.61	46
Soccer/football fields	7.7% (5)	7.7% (5)	9.2% (6)	6.2% (4)	4.6% (3)	9.2% (6)	13.8% (9)	15.4% (10)	16.9% (11)	9.2% (6)	6.18	65

Softball fields	2.8% (1)	13.9% (5)	13.9% (5)	2.8% (1)	13.9% (5)	8.3% (3)	13.9% (5)	11.1% (4)	2.8% (1)	2.8% (1)	5.37	36
Tennis courts	3.3% (2)	6.7% (4)	8.3% (5)	10.0% (6)	6.7% (4)	11.7% (7)	11.7% (7)	11.7% (7)	13.3% (8)	1.7% (1)	6.39	60
Trail miles/multi-use	21.1% (39)	13.5% (25)	15.7% (29)	9.7% (18)	9.7% (18)	7.6% (14)	7.0% (13)	5.4% (10)	4.3% (8)	5.4% (10)	4.16	185
Volleyball courts	4.0% (2)	6.0% (3)	8.0% (4)	6.0% (3)	8.0% (4)	12.0% (6)	12.0% (6)	14.0% (7)	12.0% (6)	18.0% (9)	6.60	50
Other (please specify)												41
answered question												254
skipped question												47



2. The following is a list of the City parks and recreational facilities. Please check the parks or facilities that you have visited within the last 12 months.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Bellaire Recreation Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	79.2%	229
Bellaire-Zindler Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23.5%	68
Bellaire Town Square Family Aquatic Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	59.2%	171
Bellaire Tennis Courts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.6%	51
Elaine Wood Therapy Pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13.8%	40
Evergreen Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	54.0%	156
Evergreen Pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	38.4%	111
Feld Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22.5%	65
Feld Tennis Courts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.8%	14
Holly Street Trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10.7%	31
Joe Gaither Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.8%	8
Jessamine Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23.9%	69
Lafayette Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.0%	49
Lafayette Athletic Field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.9%	20
Locust Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.8%	14

Loftin Park	<div><div></div></div>	21.8%	63
Mulberry Park	<div><div></div></div>	16.6%	48
Mulberry Athletic Field	<div><div></div></div>	6.6%	19
Mulberry Tennis Courts	<div><div></div></div>	8.0%	23
Nature Discovery Center	<div><div></div></div>	48.8%	141
Newcastle Trail	<div><div></div></div>	36.7%	106
Paseo Park	<div><div></div></div>	19.4%	56
Russ Pitman Park	<div><div></div></div>	36.3%	105
Vic Driscoll Park	<div><div></div></div>	2.8%	8
Ware Family Park	<div><div></div></div>	4.5%	13
Not familiar with any/do not use	<div><div></div></div>	1.4%	4
answered question		answered question	289
skipped question		skipped question	12

3. From the previous question, please list the top five park/facilities that you use most often in order from 1 to 5.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1	<div></div>	100.0%	255
2	<div></div>	87.8%	224
3	<div></div>	76.1%	194
4	<div></div>	63.9%	163
5	<div></div>	50.6%	129
answered question			255
skipped question			46



4. Please check the level of priority which should be given by the City to the following projects. (1 being highest priority and 4 being lowest priority)

	1	2	3	4	Rating Average	Response Count
Provide more lighted ball fields	12.8% (24)	18.6% (35)	28.2% (53)	40.4% (76)	2.96	188
Provide more trails (hiking, biking, jogging)	55.6% (139)	24.0% (60)	9.2% (23)	11.2% (28)	1.76	250
Develop more neighborhood parks	23.9% (53)	20.3% (45)	30.6% (68)	25.2% (56)	2.57	222
Develop larger park facilities	15.3% (30)	23.0% (45)	32.1% (63)	29.6% (58)	2.76	196
Spend more time/money beautifying the City	35.5% (77)	25.8% (56)	25.8% (56)	12.9% (28)	2.16	217
Acquire additional parkland for the City	20.6% (44)	24.8% (53)	26.6% (57)	28.0% (60)	2.62	214
Develop larger sports complexes for baseball, softball and soccer	18.2% (35)	14.6% (28)	26.0% (50)	41.1% (79)	2.90	192
Spend more time/money developing and maintaining existing facilities	51.0% (127)	26.5% (66)	15.3% (38)	7.2% (18)	1.79	249
answered question					280	
skipped question					21	

5. What would you like to see in Bellaire's newest park, Evelyn's Park, located at Bellaire Blvd. & Newcastle?

	Response Count
	221
answered question	221
skipped question	80

6. How often do you visit the Bellaire Recreation Center?















	Response Percent	Response Count
More than once per week	27.9%	81
Weekly	8.3%	24
Twice per week	7.9%	23
Monthly	17.9%	52
Seldom	30.3%	88
Not at all	11.4%	33
answered question		290
skipped question		11

7. If not at all, do you use another recreational facility?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	42.3%	55
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	58.5%	76
		Why?	71
		answered question	130
		skipped question	171



8. What are the best ways for you to learn about Recreation programming and events? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Leisure Activities Guide 	73.9%	209
Recreation/City staff 	19.8%	56
City of Bellaire website 	45.6%	129
Flyers at schools/library/City Hall 	16.6%	47
Facebook 	11.3%	32
Signs outside Recreation Center 	22.3%	63
Banners on the esplanade 	24.4%	69
Friends and neighbors 	25.8%	73
Local newspapers 	31.8%	90
Cable TV local access channel 	2.8%	8
Flyers at the Recreation Center 	16.6%	47
City's on line calendar 	15.2%	43
Posters around town 	15.5%	44
Email notifications 	40.6%	115
Other (please specify)		19

answered question 283

9. If you have visited the Bellaire Recreation Center in the last six months, what were the main reasons for your visit(s)?  
Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Fitness room <input type="checkbox"/>	27.7%	64
Open Gym <input type="checkbox"/>	7.4%	17
Reserve tennis court <input type="checkbox"/>	5.2%	12
Reserve facility rental <input type="checkbox"/>	1.3%	3
Reserve pool party <input type="checkbox"/>	4.3%	10
Adult basketball league <input type="checkbox"/>	1.7%	4
Attend an event <input type="checkbox"/>	22.1%	51
Jazzercise <input type="checkbox"/>	9.5%	22
Attend a meeting <input type="checkbox"/>	12.6%	29
Attend birthday party <input type="checkbox"/>	7.8%	18
Children's class/program <input type="checkbox"/>	22.9%	53
Adult class/program <input type="checkbox"/>	17.3%	40
Get specific questions answered <input type="checkbox"/>	16.0%	37
Register program/membership <input type="checkbox"/>	29.9%	69

Other (please specify)

34

answered question

231

skipped question

70

## 10. Please rate your overall satisfaction in each of the following areas:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied	Don't Know	Rating Average	Response Count
Helpfulness of front desk staff	45.7% (118)	36.8% (95)	7.8% (20)	2.3% (6)	7.4% (19)	1.89	258
Knowledge of front desk staff	38.8% (99)	41.6% (106)	8.2% (21)	2.7% (7)	8.6% (22)	2.01	255
Courteousness of front desk staff	48.0% (123)	34.8% (89)	7.0% (18)	3.1% (8)	7.0% (18)	1.86	256
Overall service	42.3% (107)	41.5% (105)	8.3% (21)	1.6% (4)	6.3% (16)	1.88	253
Hours of Recreation Center	34.8% (86)	41.3% (102)	8.5% (21)	3.2% (8)	12.1% (30)	2.17	247
Upkeep of Recreation Center	27.8% (67)	40.7% (98)	13.3% (32)	7.5% (18)	10.8% (26)	2.33	241
Other (please specify)							29

answered question

258

skipped question

43





### 11. What is your level of desire for the current programs/features we offer at the Bellaire Recreation Center?

	1 Just Right	2 Need Broader Selection	3 Don't Use	4 Didn't Know You Had This	Rating Average	Response Count
Adult exercise class	25.1% (60)	28.5% (68)	41.0% (98)	5.4% (13)	2.27	239
Adult informational class	15.6% (35)	20.5% (46)	50.4% (113)	13.4% (30)	2.62	224
Fitness room	20.9% (49)	26.1% (61)	48.3% (113)	4.7% (11)	2.37	234
Open gym	23.0% (50)	6.9% (15)	64.1% (139)	6.0% (13)	2.53	217
Adult athletic leagues	15.7% (34)	12.4% (27)	59.4% (129)	12.4% (27)	2.69	217
Youth athletic leagues/programs	32.7% (71)	13.8% (30)	48.8% (106)	4.6% (10)	2.25	217
Youth informational classes	17.0% (36)	11.8% (25)	63.7% (135)	7.5% (16)	2.62	212
Youth dance	12.1% (26)	9.3% (20)	69.6% (149)	8.9% (19)	2.75	214
Youth gymnastics	16.0% (34)	8.0% (17)	66.7% (142)	9.4% (20)	2.69	213
Special events (July 4th Parade & Festival, Holiday in the Park, Trolley Run, etc.)	64.7% (145)	12.1% (27)	17.9% (40)	5.4% (12)	1.64	224
Senior adult exercise classes	15.7% (35)	11.2% (25)	66.8% (149)	6.3% (14)	2.64	223
Senior adult informational classes	10.0% (22)	11.9% (26)	68.5% (150)	9.6% (21)	2.78	219
Cultural activities	17.4% (37)	20.7% (44)	44.1% (94)	17.8% (38)	2.62	213
Free activities (The Great Pumpkin Hunt, etc.)	32.7% (72)	16.8% (37)	36.8% (81)	13.6% (30)	2.31	220
Music classes	8.8% (19)	14.0% (30)	59.5% (128)	17.7% (38)	2.86	215

Tennis court rentals	22.3% (47)	10.0% (21)	63.0% (133)	4.7% (10)	2.50	211
Facility/Pool rentals	46.7% (98)	7.1% (15)	41.0% (86)	5.2% (11)	2.05	210
Camp Paseo/Winter Day Camp	29.1% (62)	6.1% (13)	58.2% (124)	6.6% (14)	2.42	213
Specialty camps (Camp Tie Dye, Camp Tumble Bear, Mad Science, Lego etc.)	29.1% (62)	5.2% (11)	56.3% (120)	9.4% (20)	2.46	213
Online registration	39.5% (85)	10.7% (23)	39.5% (85)	10.2% (22)	2.20	215
Current registration process	44.4% (96)	16.2% (35)	32.4% (70)	6.9% (15)	2.02	216
After school programs	11.2% (22)	13.7% (27)	62.9% (124)	12.2% (24)	2.76	197
Other (please specify)						16
answered question						259
skipped question						42

## 12. Have you used bellairereg.com to register for a class/program/camp?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	27.1%	73
No 	72.9%	196
answered question		269
skipped question		32

13. Have you used bellairereg.com to reserve a tennis court?



	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	4.5%	12
No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	95.5%	257
answered question		269
skipped question		32

14. Have you registered for a class/program by phone?





	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	19.9%	54
No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	80.1%	217
answered question		271
skipped question		30



15. Have you reserved a tennis court by phone?

Yes		Response Percent	7.5%	Response Count	20
No			92.5%		245
				answered question	265
				skipped question	36

16. Overall, how important is the Bellaire Recreation Center to you?

Very Important		Response Percent	50.0%	Response Count	142
Somewhat Important			32.7%		93
Not Very Important			10.9%		31
Not Important			6.3%		18
				answered question	284
				skipped question	17

17. What do you believe are the three most important services, products or programming that the Bellaire Recreation Center currently offers?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1st Choice	100.0%	205
2nd Choice	81.0%	166
3rd Choice	59.5%	122
answered question		205
skipped question.		96

18. What recreational programs or facilities would you like the City to offer that is not currently offered?

	Response Count
answered question	113
skipped question	188

# 19. What suggestions do you have for improving Bellaire Recreation Center services?







	Response Count
	129
answered question	129
skipped question	172

# 20. Are you male or female?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	27.1%	77
Female	72.9%	207
answered question		284
skipped question		17



21. Which category below includes your age?

	Response Percent	Response Count
6 & under	0.0%	0
7-12 	0.3%	1
13-15	0.0%	0
16-18 	1.4%	4
19-24 	1.7%	5
25-34 	6.2%	18
35-64 	72.9%	212
64 & older 	17.5%	51
answered question		291
skipped question		10

## 22. How many children are living in your household?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Ages 3 & Under	21.1%	59
Ages 4-6	16.8%	47
Ages 7-12	26.9%	75
Ages 13-15	9.3%	26
Ages 16-18	11.8%	33
No children in household	44.4%	124
answered question		279
skipped question		22

23. Are there other adults living in your household?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	85.3%	237
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	14.7%	41
If yes, how many?			113
answered question			278
skipped question			23



24. Please check the category(ies) which best describe(s) you. Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Full time student <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.5%	13
Part time student <input type="checkbox"/>	0.7%	2
Work full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	40.8%	118
Work part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.3%	50
At home parent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19.7%	57
Currently unemployed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.1%	9
Retired <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22.5%	65
Caretaker <input type="checkbox"/>	1.7%	5
answered question		289
skipped question		12

25. Are you a Bellaire resident?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		82.7%	239
No		17.3%	50
answered question			289
skipped question			12

26. Do you live inside or outside of Loop 610?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Inside Loop 610		47.9%	138
Outside Loop 610		52.1%	150
answered question			288
skipped question			13

27. How long have you been using the Bellaire Recreation Center?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	8.8%	25
1-5 years	27.1%	77
6-10 years	21.8%	62
Less than 1 year	4.2%	12
More than 10 years	38.0%	108

answered question 284

skipped question 17

28. Are you interested in someone from the Bellaire Recreation Center contacting you? If yes, please provide contact information below.

	Response Count
answered question	59
skipped question	242



## **APPENDIX C: FOCUS GROUP RESULTS**



# **Bellaire Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

## **Special Focus Group Meeting June 5, 2013**

**6 – 8 P.M.**

**CenterPoint Energy Conference Center – 7001 Fifth Street**

**Public Welcome.** Written comments may be submitted to the attention of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in care of Jane Dembski, Director of Parks & Recreation by the following means: By mail: City of Bellaire, 7008 S. Rice Ave., Bellaire, Texas 77401; by delivery: Recreation Center 7008 Fifth St.; By email to [jdembski@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:jdembski@ci.bellaire.tx.us). All comments are due by noon on June 5, 2013.

**Bellaire Parks and Recreation  
713-662-8280  
[www.ci.bellaire.tx.us](http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us)**

# **Bellaire Parks and Recreation Master Plan** **Update – Focus Group Report**

The City of Bellaire

Bellaire, Texas

June, 2013

CCA Project No. 113-028

Clark Condon Associates  
10401 Stella Link Road  
Houston, Texas 77025



**Bellaire Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update – Focus Meeting**

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- I. Summary
- II. Analysis
- III. Notes
- IV. Sign in Sheet

## **Bellaire Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update – Focus Group Summary**

The City of Bellaire held a Parks and Recreation focus group meeting June 5, 2013. The intent of the meeting was to encourage the community to voice their opinions and ideas for the future of the Bellaire Parks Master Plan Update. The discussion generated was both exciting and thoughtful.

Clark Condon Associates has categorized the many ideas generated and further summarized the wants and needs the community has identified for the City of Bellaire. The findings are as outlined below.

The topic of **Community Activities and Events** was the most discussed, mentioned a total of 21 times. The general consensus from the group was the desire to provide more multi-generational and multi-cultural activities and events that would foster a sense of community. Ideas ranged from food trucks in parks to block parties and community-wide festivals. Festivals, in particular, were highly discussed. Comparisons were made to the well-known Houston International Festival encouraging the idea for international, cultural, art and historical festivals. Bellaire, specifically, could be highlighted through the implementation of a Trolley Festival honoring the city's historical past.

**Teen Age Group Activities and Programming** was the second most talked about topic of the evening, mentioned 12 times. The public felt that young children and senior programming and recreation was well accounted for and very popular. Teens, however, fall in a middle ground that is often difficult to program effectively. When asked what type of recreation and programs they would like to have available to teens, ideas such as WiFi in parks, Frisbee golf, and concerts were mentioned. As an alternative to recreational and park activities, service and community programming was offered as a possibility in generating programs such as "Teens for Service" to get teens more active in the community and provide educational opportunities as well.

**Recreational Facilities** were mentioned 10 times and was both discussed and debated. Evergreen Park was praised for its successful mix of child play equipment and safety in the form of fencing; it was noted that this park is so successful that it is often over crowded. The community discussed the need for more open green space that could serve a multitude of

sports, competitive games, and general recreation. On the other hand, some participants voiced the need for more passive, quiet, calming spaces to escape the hectic sports lifestyle.

Many community members recognized the opportunity for Bellaire to expand their **public education programs and educational partnerships**. Nature and wildlife centers offer a nice way to create an educational outdoor environment. The existing City Library was mentioned as having the possibility of transforming into an “educational center” for the public. Beyond creating educational facilities, the idea of partnering with existing schools and colleges was discussed as a way of providing continuing education for adults and seniors alike.

**Trails and Connectivity**, previously named the number one need in Bellaire, was not forgotten at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mentioned 8 times, the public repeated the need for more trail connectivity between parks, better accommodations for bike riders, and the possibility of connecting to Braes Bayou as well and the greater Houston area beyond.

**Adult Age Group Programming** was mentioned seven times. Activity suggestions such as tennis, dance, and fitness classes were brought up as ways to involve the adult community. It was also felt that adults would like the opportunity for a mix of sun and shade areas in parks for passive activities.

**Community Identity** was an important topic of the evening. The attendees felt that the parks and the City itself need a better sense of place which could be created with community gateways, standardized park signage, and wayfinding signage in the community.

Another topic that was mentioned repeatedly was **Public Relations and Marketing**. Not only can the City promote itself through the parks system, but there is an opportunity for community outreach. Some of the attendees were surprised to learn of certain programs and activities that the Parks Department has in place and it was felt that a greater effort at marketing the programs and activities to the community could promote usership.

**Water** in parks was also discussed. Ideas included passive and educational activities promoted by ponds or lakes, Splash Pads for active play and extension of the pool season, and basic comforts such as hydration stations.

And finally, **General Safety** was a topic of concern. This extended from safer trail connections to fencing at playgrounds. While not mentioned extensively, this was a topic that the attendees agreed were of utmost importance.



At the conclusion of the meeting it was mentioned that there was the opportunity for additional park space at Evergreen Park with the removal of City utility facilities. As the City moves forward, they should look at other areas where park space could be made available especially in the Southwest quadrant of the city which was noted as being underserved by parks. There are also many opportunities for partnership with local schools and recreation businesses that may be considered in meeting the future Parks and Recreation needs of the community.

## **Bellaire Parks and Recreation Mater Plan Update – Focus Group Analysis**

### **I. Promote Sense of Community: Through Multigenerational Activities and Events**

- A. Mentioned **21** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Contests and Events
  - Block Parties
  - Opportunities for all age groups
  - Multi-generational Recreation
  - Food – Cafes in Parks
  - Food Trucks
  - Cupcake Truck
  - Gathering Spaces
  - Skills tournament recreation
  - Welcome feeling
  - Sense of community
  - Family programs
  - Holiday events – Halloween
  - Farmer's Market
  - Community garden
  - Houston International Festival
  - Trolley festival
  - Art festival
  - Cultural programming – international festivals
  - Festivals
  - Contests

### **II. Teen Age Group Programming and Recreation**

- A. Mentioned **12** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Older children/teen programming
  - Frisbee golf
  - Mobile hot spots
  - Teens

- Recreation center
- WiFi
- Picnic in the park
- Service programs
- “Teens for Service”
- Community service
- Music/concerts
- Frisbee golf

### **III. Recreational Facilities**

- A. Mentioned **10** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Evergreen play equipment
  - Outdoor board games
  - Sports Fields
  - Regional facilities
  - Open fields – multi-use
  - Basketball courts
  - Passive recreation – cool, quiet, relaxing
  - Competitive sports fields
  - Green space – open space
  - City facilities

### **IV. Education and Educational Partnerships**

- A. Mentioned **8** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Wildlife habitat and education
  - Native plant education
  - Library as education center
  - Discovery Center
  - Education
  - Education partnerships
  - Continuing education
  - Partnerships with school programs



**V. Trails and Connectivity**

- A. Mentioned **8** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Trail study
  - Bike trails - #1 need
  - Connectivity
  - Connectivity to the Bayou
  - Bike share program
  - Sidewalks
  - Dog walking
  - Trail connections to existing parks

**VI. Adult Age Group Programming and Recreation**

- A. Mentioned **7** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Adults
  - Tennis
  - Dance
  - Exercise
  - Fitness classes
  - Adult programming
  - Mix of sun and shade

**VII. Community Identity and Wayfinding**

- A. Mentioned **6** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Identity
  - Sense of Place
  - Example: Museum District
  - Signage
  - Gateways
  - Redesign of current wayfinding

**VIII. Public Relations and Marketing**

- A. Mentioned **4** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - City promotion through park systems
  - Regional promotion
  - Public relations
  - Community outreach

**IX. Water**

- A. Mentioned **4** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Passive and Active uses for water
  - Ponds and fountains
  - Spray grounds
  - “Hydration Station”

**X. General Safety**

- A. Mentioned **3** times
- B. Topics of discussion (in no particular order)
  - Fencing at areas dedicated to young children
  - Safety for children
  - Walkability - safety



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ASSOCIATES  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

## MEETING NOTES

**MEETING DATE:** June 5, 2013

**ISSUE DATE:** June 7, 2013

**PROJECT:** Bellaire Parks MP Update Focus Group

**CCA PROJECT No:** 113-028

**ATTENDEES:** See attached Sign In Sheet

**DISTRIBUTION:** City of Bellaire, file

### Outreach Meeting

Pre-K fencing  
Safety for young kids  
Evergreen play equipment  
Wildlife  
Native plants  
Library as education center  
Quality of life  
Water - passive and active - ponds, fountains  
Spraygrounds  
Hydration station  
Outdoor board games  
Contests, events, skills tournaments - Bocce ball  
Block parties  
Senior group - continuing programs  
Multigenerational  
Walkability - safety  
Therapy pool  
Fields  
Regional facilities  
Open fields - multi-use  
Basketball courts  
City promotion through parks  
Older children/teens  
Parking  
Meditation  
Discovery center  
Education  
Adults - tennis, dance  
Education partnerships  
All age groups  
Food - cafe  
Foot trucks  
Cupcake truck





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**ASSOCIATES**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Cool, quiet, relax, art, passive  
Seniors  
Trail study  
Bike trails - #1 need  
Connectivity  
Bayou  
Adult programming  
Frisbee golf  
Mobile hot spots  
Mix of shade and sun  
Teens - rec center, wifi, picnic in the park  
Service programs  
Teens for service  
Community service  
Music - concerts  
Gathering spaces  
Public forum  
Movie night  
Frisbee golf  
Welcome feeling  
Bike share  
Western side of city  
Northwest side in need  
Sidewalks  
Dog walking  
Trails connection parks  
Sense of community  
Family programs  
Holiday events - Halloween  
Competitive field sports  
Green space  
Continuing educational  
Regional promotion  
PR  
Community outreach  
Farmer's market  
Community garden  
Partnership with schools programs  
Adults - basketball, exercise, classes, fitness  
Identity  
Sense of place  
Museum district  
Houston Festival - themes, international  
Trolley festival  
Art festival  
Pedestrian safety



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**ASSOCIATES**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Signage - gateways  
Cultural programming  
Festivals  
Contests  
Child involvement  
City facilities  
Redesign - wayfinding

END OF NOTES

***Should any recipients find the information herein incorrect please, contact us immediately at 713-871-1414.***

## **APPENDIX D: MATRIX OF FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

